

JOURNEY FROM INDIA,

TOWARDS

E N G L A N D,

IN THE YEAR 1797;

BY A ROUTE COMMONLY CALLED OVER-LAND, THROUGH COUNTRIES
NOT MUCH FREQUENTED, AND MANY OF THEM HITHERTO
UNKNOWN TO EUROPEANS,

PARTICULARLY BETWEEN THE RIVERS

EUPHRATES AND TIGRIS,

THROUGH

CURDISTAN, DIARBEEK, ARMENIA, AND NATOLIA,

I N A S I A;

AND THROUGH

ROMANIA, BULGARIA, WALLACHIA, TRANSYLVANIA, &c.

I N E U R O P E.

ILLUSTRATED BY A MAP AND OTHER ENGRAVINGS.

Acc. 617

BY JOHN JACKSON, ESQ.

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1799.

TO
THE HONOURABLE
THE CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN,
AND
COURT OF DIRECTORS,
OF THE
UNITED COMPANY
OF
MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND,

TRADING TO THE
EAST INDIES;
THIS BOOK
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY
THEIR MUCH OBLIGED,
AND
VERY OBEDIENT SERVANT,

JOHN JACKSON.

LONDON, NOV. 1799.



PREFACE.

THOUGH much has been already written respecting the communication between GREAT BRITAIN and her INDIAN possessions, yet, as those possessions have within a few years been much extended, the subject of course becomes additionally interesting; and any work that may, even in a small degree, tend to facilitate that communication, will, no doubt, be acceptable to those who are in any way concerned, in trade, or by other connections, with the EAST.

When the Author undertook this journey, he had not the most distant idea that his remarks would ever be required to appear before the public; for, had he enter-

tained such a presumption, he might have written more fully, and would certainly have been more particular in his inquiries. What he did write was always on the spot, from day to day, and was chiefly confined to circumstances which fell under his own observation.

Many persons may be apt to inquire, what motives could have induced a man to undertake such an uncommon route, with the certain prospect before him of many fatigues and dangers, particularly when, without even a shadow of pecuniary advantage, he must necessarily incur a considerable expence.

In truth, curiosity was the prime mover to this enterprize. The Author went to INDIA by sea, and having occasion to return to ENGLAND, wished to vary the scene, instead of coming back by way of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Having been accustomed to an active life, therefore, having always lived temperately,

perately, and enjoying a good state of health, he was induced, when at BOMBAY, to embrace an opportunity which then offered of returning by shipping as far as BUSSORA, though at a season when the passage had perhaps never before been attempted, being generally thought impracticable; trusting to Providence and his own exertions, and possessing that enterprising spirit which enables men to surmount difficulties and dangers that to more timid minds appear insuperable.

Various journalists have written on the different routes over-land (as it is vulgarly called) from INDIA, each very naturally recommending the route adopted by himself; thus, some describe that by way of SUEZ and CAIRO; some again, that over the Great Desert to ALEPPO; others have recommended to pass up the EUPHRATES as far as HILLA, then to BAGDAD, and after that through ASSYRIA, ARMENIA, &c. &c.; but all have been unanimous in declaring, that this latter route was per-

fectly impracticable in the months from April to September.

The following sheets will serve to prove, that it is practicable at all seasons. If the traveller pass through ARABIA in winter, when it is temperate, he will find it excessively cold among the high mountains in ARMENIA. If he suffer a little from the excessive heat of the summer in ARABIA, which may be justly said to be the hottest place in the world, he will find the rest of his journey temperate and pleasant, which may be said to be, in some measure, a recompence. When the Author was in ARABIA, at midsummer, the fruits were in full season, and they continued in that state all the way he came to VIENNA; and fruits are in those climes a very great luxury.

As few Europeans can readily accustom themselves to the Turkish manner of living, or of accommodation, the Author could not recommend a better route to BAGDAD than the one by which he came,

particularly if the traveller be incumbered with much baggage. If he should be entrusted with dispatches, and celerity be desirable, the Author would advise him to leave BUSSORA on horseback, and come up the Great Desert in a straight line to HILLA, accompanied by an Arab Sheik, or a Chookadar*, and only two attendants. In this case, he should be provided with a very light tent to sleep under, a quilt to throw over him, and a small quantity of coffee, biscuit, &c. By this mode of travelling, he may easily reach BAGDAD in six days; it requires great exertions, however; and few men are able at first to bear it, particularly if their constitutions have been enervated by the luxuries of the EAST.

To any one who may adopt the route described in this work, the following HINTS OF INSTRUCTION may not be unacceptable.

* An officer in the army, of a rank about equal to that of a serjeant.

At BUSSORA, he should equip himself in all respects like the Arabs. It will be necessary for him, as soon as he embarks, or even before, to suffer his beard to grow; but, as it may be uncomfortable to wear his beard at full length, it will be sufficient if he do but preserve his mustaches. This, however, must be particularly attended to, and can by no means be dispensed with; for, though a man without a beard might be safe in a large city, or in any civilized place, yet in a journey of this nature, wherein he will often meet with barbarous wandering tribes, who would not hesitate a moment about putting him to death if they should discover that he was a Fringui*, he will perceive the necessity of imitating the Arabs in dress as nearly as possible.

As few Europeans have any knowledge of the Arabic language, particularly as it is spoken in ARABIA, he will be much at

* A term applied to Christians in general. The Arabs call EUROPE Fringuistan.

a loss, especially when he has none but Arabs about him. He will, therefore, find it useful to have with him a kind of vocabulary, to enable him to ask useful or necessary questions.

While the Author was proceeding up the EUPHRATES, the HIE, and the TRIGRIS, he compiled a small vocabulary for his own use, which he found afterwards of infinite service.

When the traveller arrives at BAGDAD, he will find that the English are more respected than any other nation; he will therefore feel the necessity of acting in the most honourable manner in every transaction, that he may support the dignity of the national character; for such is the illiberal way of thinking among these people, that should an individual of any country act meanly, the people would condemn all his nation; and the bad conduct of one person might thus endanger the lives of hundreds of his countrymen, who might adopt the same route.

From

From BAGDAD there is but one mode of travelling, which is under the guidance and protection of the Tatars, or messengers of government. These men are under the immediate orders of the Bashaw and his ministers; but are at all times ready to enter into any contract with an individual, which they usually make very profitable to themselves, particularly when they have to conduct those who are enabled to obtain firmauns*; for, by virtue of these, the Tatars are enabled to take several horses and attendants, and a large quantity of merchandize on their return, which pays them very well. In the Author's firmaun it was intimated that he was an English Consul, which enabled his Tatar to obtain guards (free of expence) whenever there was danger to be apprehended from the wandering tribes. This is by far

* These give the Tatar and traveller a great deal of authority over the people, particularly over those who are appointed by government to accommodate the Tatars.

the safest way of travelling, as the person of a Consul is seldom insulted.

Great care, however, should be taken when an agreement is about to be made with a Tatar. It is advisable to pay him only half of the money agreed for at BAGDAD, that he may have an interest in delivering the traveller safe at CONSTANTINOPLE. Care should be taken also, that the Tatar does not engage to carry merchandize for any one, which he will do if possible.

The necessaries which the traveller takes should be compressed into as narrow a compass as possible. A little tea, coffee, and sugar, will be serviceable in the winter season; and some spirits, either brandy or hollands, may be useful; but he should by no means be encumbered with either of these in summer, as it would be highly dangerous to drink any spirits in that climate in the heat of that season. The Author himself drank very little beside water

water and milk, between BUSSORA and CONSTANTINOPLE.

The traveller should be equipped in the same manner as the Tatar, which will always ensure him respect. Some have attempted to travel under the character of the Tatar's servants (the Armenian merchants in particular do this); but the Author considers it as too degrading for the character of an Englishman. The Tatars, who are accustomed to travel very fast, usually ride the hindmost horse of the company, and whip the other beasts to keep them going. This should never be permitted; but whoever attempts a journey of this kind should be a good horseman.

The traveller ought not to encumber himself with specie, except about half a dozen piaffres, to give as presents to those who may render some little services. He will, it is true, be often solicited for gifts, but should always refer the applicants to his

his Tatar ; and when they find that, they will not apply a second time. It is much more prudent to take bills drawn by the merchants, which will usually meet due honour, while they offer no temptation to robbers.

From CONSTANTINOPLE, if the traveller be unacquainted with the language, it will be necessary to engage a Janizary to conduct him to the frontiers, who will be paid in about the same proportion as the Tatars.

It has often been a subject of inquiry, which is the speediest method of forwarding dispatches to and from INDIA. The Author is of opinion, that the route by which he came must be the most expeditious for forwarding dispatches to INDIA. When the messenger arrives at BAGDAD, he can set out immediately in a Kiraffe down the TIGRIS till he reaches the HIE, down which he will proceed till he enters the EUPHRATES. By this channel he may be able to reach BUSSORA in three days, which

which must be much quicker than going by land to HILLA, and from thence down the EUPHRATES.

The usual mode of forwarding dispatches from INDIA is by the way of BUS-SORA, over the Great Desert to ALEPPO; from thence to CONSTANTINOPLE, and afterwards by the German post to VIENNA and HAMBURGH. This is certainly done at an easy expence, and much less than by way of BAGDAD; but the latter would, no doubt, be a quicker route in case of necessity, as the Arabs are obliged to cross the Great Desert on camels.

A

JOURNEY

FROM

INDIA, TOWARDS ENGLAND.

ON the 4th of MAY 1797, at eight P. M. left BOMBAY, and embarked on board the country ship Pearl, R. SPENCE, Master, bound to BUSSORA; having in company JAMES STEVENS, Esq. in the Civil Service, Capt. JOHN REID, late Commander of the Princess Royal Indianman, and Mr. JAMES MORLEY.

We had pleasant weather and smooth water, with light airs from the W. N. W. and N. W. which continued till the 12th, when we were in lat. $11^{\circ} 9'$ North, and $62^{\circ} 16'$ East longitude. It then began to grow cloudy, and the wind increased.

B

On

On the 15th, in North lat. $14^{\circ} 42'$. we had a fresh breeze, W. by N. with a heavy swell from the N. W. and a strong current setting to the Eastward.

On the 17th, at half past one, A. M. passed a small ship bearing East, distant about a quarter of a mile; and at sunrise, she bore S. S. E. distant five or six miles. We supposed her to be an Arab ship, called the Morning Star. With fresh breezes from the N. W. the ship ran at the rate of seven and eight knots.

On the 18th we had strong gales from the West, and the weather cloudy. At two A. M. wore ship to the Southward, supposing that we were in soundings. Thick and hazy all round, with a very heavy swell from the N. W.

On the 20th, in $23^{\circ} 20'$. North lat. had a light breeze and pleasant weather, the ship going five and six knots, and the wind from the S. S. W. At one, P. M. saw

the land, bearing from N. by E. to W. by N. distant about five leagues, and several Arab boats; and at five, P. M. we rounded Cape RAS-EL-GAT. At sun-rise, on the 21st, two Arab boats came along-side with fish, which we bought at a very moderate price. At seven P. M. the wind E. S. E. ship going four knots, observed a dow in chase of us. From her manœuvring (sometimes hauling her wind, at others sailing free), we suspected her to be a pirate. She sailed remarkably fast, and in an hour was in our wake, distant a cable's length. She then hailed us. Our seapoys immediately fired a volley of musquetry into her, when she hauled her wind and ran in shore..

On the 24th, at day-break, the GREAT QUOIN bore S. W. by S. distant about four leagues; extremes of the Island of KISHME, from W. N. W. to N. W. distant seven or eight leagues; and the Island of ORMUS bearing N. by E.

We now saw twenty-two dows in chase of us; some of the small ones, sailing very fast upon a wind, soon came up with us within a cable's length. They were full of men, who were all armed; we therefore beat to quarters and prepared for action, though many of the large vessels had great guns on board. The smaller ones that had come up with us appeared afraid to begin the attack till the larger had reached them. We were to windward of the large dows; and, as a fresh breeze sprung up from the Westward, and those vessels are obliged to wear instead of tacking, they made much leeway, by which circumstance we were enabled to keep a-head. They continued to chase us till two P. M. when we had very strong gales from the N. W.; and, many of the large dows dropping to leeward very fast, they gave up the chase, and ran behind the Island of KISHME.

The gale increasing, we kept the sea, beating to windward under double-reefed topails,

topsails, not choosing to anchor in shore for fear of again meeting with our enemies.

On the 28th we saw a large ship in SHARAS ROADS, under Arab colours.

We continued beating to windward amongst the islands on the Persian side of the Gulph, the wind usually blowing from the N. W. till the 30th at noon, when the extremes of the Persian shore bore from N. N. W. to E. by S. distance four miles. It was now calm, and so continued for about twelve hours, during which time many locusts flew on board; a common indication of strong gales from the N. W. which accordingly occurred the next day at three A. M. when, the weather being hazy, we suddenly ran foul of a large Arab dow close under our ship's bows. She had a boat towing astern. Our bower anchor hooked her high poop and tore it up, carrying away our sprit-sail-yard, the chain of the shank painter, and the bolts out of the larboard bumpkin. The Arabs im-

mediately fell to prayers, and let the drow drift to leeward. At sun-rise we saw her in a very shattered state.

On the 1st of JUNE we had very heavy gales from the N. W. the ship pitching very much, and making more water than usual. At eight P. M. furled the top-sails; and at nine, the gale becoming more moderate, set close-reefed fore and main-top-sails, and continued working to windward up the Persian side of the Gulph.

On the 4th of JUNE, in $28^{\circ} 36'$ North lat. saw a large white mosque on the Persian shore, bearing E. N. E. distant three miles, with a town and several groves of date-trees along shore. At eleven A. M. saw the low land about BUSHIRE, bearing N. by W. We had now a moderate breeze from the N. W.; and on the 5th, at six P. M. we anchored in BUSHIRE ROADS in four fathom water, the town bearing East. The Captain immediately went on shore in the pinnace, to procure
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an order from the Sheik for the ship to receive a pilot from the island of CARRICK, which order costs 200 Bombay rupees. In the roads we found an English brig called the Bassein, belonging to Captain TORIN, chartered by the government of BOMBAY to take bale goods and dispatches from BOMBAY to BUSSORAH. She had sailed from BOMBAY three weeks before we did; and Captain TORIN informed us, that he had been captured by twenty-two dows near the island of KISHME; that he was two days in their hands; that when they took him, two large dows, one on each side, boarded him with above 100 men each, beating their tom-toms, and giving their war-yell; that the weight of the men made his vessel heel very much; but they had, after plundering him by taking away his powder and his pump-gear, with sundry other articles, released him, partly on account of his belonging to the English East India Company, but chiefly in compliance with the intercession of a passenger, brother to the Nabob of MASULAPATNAM,

B 4 a Mussulman,

a Muffulman, who could speak a little Arabic. The Arabs told the Captain, that they were at war with the EMAUM of MUSCAT, and had mistaken his vessel for the Morning Star belonging to MUSCAT. The same vessels had two years before captured a French brig, coppered, which was then lying behind KISHME; and about seven years back had made prize of another ship called the Beigly Beig, from BENGAL for BUS-SORA, and which was still lying on the rocks behind the QUOINS on the Arabian shore. We now learned that the large ship which we saw in SHARAS ROADS was a man of war belonging to the EMAUM of MUSCAT, with above 1000 men on board; sent to cruise against the dows.

On the 6th, at four P. M. got under way. At three A. M. tacked; distance off CARRICK three miles. At four A. M. hove-to till day-light, when we made sail with light airs from the S. W. the lead constantly going. At five A. M.
in

in 16 fathom, and before we had time to take another cast with the lead, the ship struck on a reef of white coral rocks, and stuck fast. We founded around the ship, and found $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet water forward, $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathom astern, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathom abreast the main-mast. It was near high water when she struck, and the ship drew about 15 feet water upon an even keel. We hoisted out the pinnace and long-boat, and carried out the best bower anchor astern, which we let go in 10 fathom water, and attempted to heave her off. Not succeeding, however, we fired two guns, and sent an Arab (one of the crew) on shore to the Sheik for assistance. Meanwhile we struck the top gallant yards and masts, and threw stone ballast overboard. At nine A. M. the Sheik SULLIMAN, with six boats and a hundred men, came to assist. We employed all hands in lightening the ship; loaded the six boats with rice, putting a seapoy in each to guard it; and made many attempts to heave the ship off, but to no purpose. At noon there came on a strong breeze

breeze from the N. W.; and had we not been upon a weather shore, the ship must inevitably have gone to pieces.

On the 7th, at four P. M. we weighed anchor with the long boat, carried it further out, brought the cable to the capstan through the cabin windows, and had it taught. The Sheik and his people stayed on board all night, the boats with the rice lying at anchor near the ship, and a scapoy remaining in each. At half past five A. M. of the 8th, the wind still blowing fresh from the N. W. set the top-fails aback; and, the tide rising much higher than on the preceding evening, hove the ship off without having received any apparent damage, not making more water than usual. We now took the rice on board, cleared the ship as soon as possible, weighed, ran off CARRICK TOWN, and anchored in 11 fathom.

Captain JOHN REID and myself went ashore in a country boat, to try if we could shoot any antelopes, of which there were

were many on the island, having first obtained the Sheik's permission. We took with us two Arab guides, and presently saw about twenty antelopes, which, however, were so very shy, that we could not get near enough to have a shot; nor do I think it possible to take them without hawks, the mode usually practised in those countries. The swiftest greyhounds would be of no use, for the antelopes are much swifter of foot than any animal I ever saw before. They are of a light fawn colour, about the size of a goat, but with longer legs, and have small horns almost erect.

We directed our walk to the highest part of the island, which appears to have been a volcanic production, having coral rocks and sea shells on its very summit; and in many places great quantities of lava have run down towards the sea. Here is plenty of good water, but very little vegetation, except near the springs. Being on shore in the middle of the day, I found

found the heat much greater than I had ever experienced in INDIA.

On our return to the shore, we found the Sheik dividing among his people the fifteen bags of rice which he had received from Captain SPENCE for his trouble. He seemed to be perfectly satisfied with the quantity, though it appeared to Captain REID and myself to be but a small recompense for the important services he had rendered in saving both ship and cargo.

The Sheik was about fifty years of age, but could neither read nor write. He begged of us to give him some small shot, which we did, and added to it all the powder we had with us. We were also strongly inclined to have given him both our fowling-pieces, could we possibly have spared them, so much were we pleased with the good man's conduct.

The island of CARRICK, which contains between six and seven hundred inhabitants,

habitants, is about twelve miles long and seven broad. It abounds with goats, but has very few cows, and no beasts of prey. Nor are there any fowls, tame or wild, except stock and turtle doves, of which we shot several. It produces very few vegetables, particularly at this season, the heat being so intense as to destroy all vegetation, except in the immediate vicinity of water. Wheat, rice, and barley, however, are grown, but not in sufficient quantity to supply the inhabitants, the principal part of whose food is fish, which they catch in abundance all round the island. There is also very fine turtle, but the natives do not eat it.

On the 8th, at three P. M. a pilot, named ZODUN, having taken charge of the ship with his trankey*, we weighed

* A vessel about the size of a Peter-boat, sharp at both ends. It is built of very rough pieces of wood rudely put together, and covered over with a thick coat of bitumen, with which the country abounds. These vessels sail very fast either end first, having no distinction of head from stern.

and

and made fail with a fresh breeze from the West, running between the island called KORG0, and the Persian shore.

On the 9th and 10th we had light and variable airs, and were often obliged to anchor, not being able to stem the tide.

On the 10th, at midnight, the pilot sent his trankey to sound for the bar.

At six A. M. of the 11th, saw the trankey at anchor in $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathom, bearing N. N. E. distant three miles, with her colours up, a signal for her being on the bar. At eight A. M. weighed and made fail, the land bearing N. W. At eleven A. M. crossed the bar $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathom for two casts with the lead, then 3, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ the rest of the way over. At noon saw the entrance of BUSSORA RIVER, N. W. distant off shore three leagues. At half past one P. M. anchored in five fathom; and, while we were at anchor, a great many pelicans hovered about the ship.

MONDAY,

MONDAY, JUNE 12.

Got the ship under way about one A. M. and made a very good tide's work, gaining about 12 leagues.

At nine o'clock Captain REID and myself went ashore on the Arab side of the river, taking with us our guns; but we only shot a few wild pigeons, procured some eggs and greens from the Arabs, and bought a bullock for six piaftres. The extent of our walk inland did not exceed about half a mile, which space was planted throughout with date-trees, the male trees being generally planted North^West of the females, because the wind usually blows from that point. The males are very easily distinguished, being higher than the females, and not so full of leaves at the top. The ground is full of cuts for the purpose of letting in the water from the river at tide-time; for without this
the

the dates would not thrive, as they require much moisture.

After we had passed through the plantation, we entered some villages on the edge of the Desert, beyond which neither trees nor other vegetation were to be seen. All our prospect consisted of a burning desert covered with a crust of salt, making a noise under the feet similar to that caused by walking on frozen snow.

Without being on shore in the middle of the day, and at the season near Midsummer, a stranger to this country could not possibly form any idea of the heat upon the Desert. The bare feet of an European would be blistered in a moment, and I felt some inconvenience to mine, even through a pair of strong boots.

The houses here are built of clay, and covered with the leaves of the date-tree.

The inhabitants are very numerous, and most of them have weak eyes, occasioned, probably, by the reflection of the sun upon the desert. Their dress is very simple; that of the men being in general no more than a woollen cap to defend the head from the sun; and a coarse woollen cloak, with short wide sleeves. I should observe, that an Arab always wears his woollen cap, though he has often no other cloathing. The woman's dress is equally simple, being only a few yards of blue cotton cloth wrapped round them.

These people have numerous flocks of cattle, sheep, and goats, which they drive every morning at sun-rise to the river side, where they find very good pasture. They are watched all day by men, women, and children, who frequently amuse themselves by bathing in the river; for an Arab, when he has an opportunity, will bathe five or six times a day. The flocks are always driven back at sun-set to the villages, where they remain all night.

C

Every

Every village and fixed residence is surrounded with a lofty mud wall, to defend it from beasts of prey, particularly lions, which are here very numerous.

The Arab women were not so shy as we expected to find them. They seemed much entertained by the novelty of our dress, and very civilly offered us milk, bread, &c. Their bread is in cakes, but not fine; and their milk is not very palatable to an European, being curdled and quite sour. It immediately turns sour after sunrise; but we found that the Arabs preferred it in that state. Being much amused with the novelty of the scene, we remained longer on shore than we intended. The ship, however, getting under way, fired a gun, and hoisted a signal for us to return on board.

On the Persian shore are the ruins of a very large and ancient city, extending about twelve miles along the banks of the river, and containing many tombs which
still

still appear entire. We were informed, that this city was destroyed by the Persian Emperor, NADIR SHAH; and among the ruins we descried several wolves.

The tide not continuing so long as we expected, we had only gained about twelve miles before we were obliged to anchor at three, P. M. the wind blowing strong from the N. W.

In the whole extent from the sea to this part of the Persian side of the river, there is very little culture, and but a thin population. It appears, however, to have been once well cultivated; there are still many embankments to prevent the river overflowing the country, and numerous canals to water the ground, similar to those on the opposite Arabian shore. As to plantations, we only saw a few straggling date-trees, which, being neglected, bore very little fruit.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13.

WE weighed anchor this morning at two o'clock; but the wind still blowing fresh from the N. W. and very little flood tide, we only gained about five miles, and anchored again at five.

We now saw numerous herds of cattle, sheep, and goats, with a great many horses, on the Arabian side of the river. An Arab Sheik, or a man of any consequence, usually keeps several horses ready saddled, in case of any alarm, and is always ready to ride off at a moment's notice. These horses are fed with grass cut by the side of the river at low water, or on some of the islands, which are very numerous. For this purpose they make use of large baskets, covered with a coat of bitumen, which effectually keeps out the water, and two men will paddle in them at a tolerable rate. Some of these baskets are large enough

enough to carry a dozen people, and are frequently used as ferry-boats.

The wind increasing from the N. W. we were not able to move with the afternoon's tide.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14.

THIS morning at three o'clock, the wind falling a little, we weighed, ran about six leagues, and anchored again at seven. The tide now falling off very fast, and the wind still blowing from the N. W. we had no prospect of reaching BUSSORA for some time. Capt. SPENCE, therefore, dispatched an Arab servant with a letter to the Company's Resident at that place.

On the Arabian side of the river the culture and population were nearly the same as before ; but the Persian side had a better appearance. Vegetation was there

much more flourishing; and at sun-set, a considerable tribe, with their flocks, began to pitch their tents, not appearing to have any fixed residence. They lighted fires, which continued burning all night.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15.

WEIGHED anchor at three o'clock; but, the wind continuing as before, only gained about six miles. The Persian side of the river improved in its appearance, having a few small villages close to the river side, and some date-trees. It being rather swampy, there were also a good many willows, and a few elm-trees.

The Arabian side, too, looked better than what we had lately passed, being cultivated farther from the river. The date-trees being planted about ten feet from each other, and full of leaves at top, afford a very good shade; and the people are enabled to cultivate the ground during the whole day, without suffering much inconvenience

convenience from the heat of the sun, which out of the shade, and in the middle of the day, is at this season not to be endured. We found here a very strong brown soil, which does not appear to want any manure, nor do the Arabs at this place ever make use of any.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16.

Got under way this morning at four o'clock. The wind continuing as before, and very little flood tide, we only gained two leagues.

The Persian side of the river now exhibited a high degree of cultivation. We saw many inhabitants and numerous flocks and herds; but had not much intercourse with the people, as they are not so much to be trusted as their opposite neighbours the Arabs. They are a very strong, robust, hard-featured people; and their dress is nearly similar to that of the Arabs. A

piece of blue callico, about five yards long, is the whole of the woman's drefs, and the children are entirely naked. The men have a very ferocious appearance, and will defstroy whomsoever they can overpower, which renders it impofible to travel much in this country. Wild hogs are very numerous among the marfhes, and there are various kinds of game in great plenty, which affords fine fport to a fhooting party; but it will be always neceffary to go in a confiderable body, and never very far from the river, to avoid being cut off by the favage inhabitants.

The Arabian fide of the river was nearly the fame as before, except that the canals were cut farther inland, which implied of courfe more cultivation. Some of the canals are very broad, and I crofled over feveral in the wicker baskets before defcribed, which are indeed very convenient where there is not much current.

SATURDAY,

SATURDAY, JUNE 17.

Got the ship under way this morning at five o'clock; but for want of wind, only gained about two leagues.

A party of us went out a-shooting on the Arabian side of the river, but were not very successful in our sport. Extending our walk inland about three miles, we found the whole well watered by means of canals from the river, and the population was very great. The dates and other trees afforded an agreeable shade, and made our little incursion very pleasant. We found great abundance and many varieties of garden vegetables; some of them European, and several peculiar to the country. Beside the dates, which are the chief support of the inhabitants, there were great quantities of pomegranates nearly ripe; red and white grapes, some of them ripe; an abundance of oranges, limes, and lemons, but none of these had attained

attained maturity. There were also many well-tasted apples, chiefly of the kind called codlings, but a little sweeter than those in England. We took with us about a bushel of these, for which we paid a very trifling sum.

I was very much pleased with this little journey; and, though I had lately been in the island of CEYLON among the cinnamon, in the Travencore country, and in every port on the Malabar coast, I certainly should give the preference to this place; for the abundance of various kinds of fruits, the fragrant smell from the oranges, lemons, and sweet-scented shrubs, and the agreeable shade of the lofty date-trees, rendered it a most delightful spot.

The inhabitants, too, were remarkably civil. There being no regular road, we frequently lost our way; and they would very readily offer their services to conduct us into the right path.

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We had, however, one advantage, which strangers to this country can seldom enjoy; I mean in having several Arabs belonging to the ship, who could interpret for us. We therefore never went on shore without taking some of them with us.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18.

WEIGHED anchor this morning at five, ran about two leagues only, and anchored again at nine.

At half past three in the afternoon I fet out for BUSSORA by land, with an Arab guide. We were frequently stopped on the road by soldiers; but my guide always satisfying them, I was permitted to pass without molestation. Many of the inhabitants seemed to view me with astonishment; and in all probability some of them had never seen an European before, this part being out of any accustomed road, and where no one can travel
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on horseback on account of the numerous canals.

The country through which I passed had a delightful appearance, being well watered, and in luxuriant vegetation. Extensive crops of wheat, barley, and paddy, were nearly ripe; and of fruit and vegetables the quantity was immense. The city of BUSSORA is supplied from this neighbourhood, and the Turks and Arabs consume a very large quantity in proportion to their other food.

After walking about ten miles, at half past six o'clock I reached the English factory at BUSSORA. Here I obtained a horse, and a guide, also mounted, and set out immediately from BUSSORA for MARGILL, the country residence of SAMUEL MANESTY, Esq. the Resident. This stands about three miles above the city, and is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river.

I remained

I remained a week at MARGILL, during which time I experienced every mark of civility and hospitality.

Mr. MANESTY fills the office of Resident with great ability, and is deservedly esteemed by every one who has the pleasure of knowing him. His conduct, in every instance, is most truly that of an *English gentleman*; and he has rendered Government very essential services during the present war, by seizing the French dispatches, and preventing that nation from carrying on any correspondence with INDIA by land.

During my stay I frequently visited the city of BUSSORA, which is very large and extremely populous. The Bazar, or Market-place, is near two miles long, and appears to be well supplied. It abounds with drugs of various kinds peculiar to the country, and which, though of considerable value in EUROPE, may be bought here at a moderate price, money

being of more value here than in many other countries.

European manufactures are scarce and dear; and the people prefer those of ENGLAND to all others. Our superfine broad cloth, and our watches, will sell for more than double what they cost in ENGLAND.

The length of the city walls, from the river toward the Great Desert, is about four miles, and from North to South about three miles. The walls are chiefly built of clay, and of course cannot make any very stout resistance, particularly against artillery. Of this, however, there is very little in the country; in the city, I observed only ten pieces, most of them brass indeed, but only two or three of them serviceable. Being exposed to the sun, the carriages were dropping to pieces.

Here are several mosques and minarets, many of which are very handsome buildings.

ings. Some of the latter are entirely covered with variegated tiles, which have a very singular appearance. Most of the public buildings, as mosques, minarets, and hummums, are built of brick; but the English factory is now by far the best structure in the whole city.

Within the walls are several vacant spots not built upon, and which appear to have been occasioned by fire. The houses in general are very indifferent, being chiefly built of clay with a small proportion of bricks. Their timbers are the trunks of date-trees, not squared, but round, and in the same state as when brought from the plantation: they are also very soft and spongy, and will not last long. The very thick walls, and these clumsy timbers, form together a very uncouth piece of architecture.

The roofs are flat, and surrounded by a parapet. Here the inhabitants sleep during

ring the summer season, in the open air. To an European every house appears like a prison, as it can receive no light from the street, because it has no windows. Every house forms a square, and the inhabitants have no communication with their neighbours. Within the square are various offices; some under ground, where the people retire during the heat of the day. The kitchen, the water, and not unfrequently the horses, are kept on the ground floor. The hall, where they receive company, the harem, and many other offices, are on the second, which has generally a gallery supported by pillars continued nearly round the inside of the whole building. They have generally two flights of steps; one leading to the hall, where alone strangers are admitted; the other leading to the harem, to which none but the family can have access.

Women of the higher class are seldom seen out of doors; but when they do go out,

out, they are always veiled. Many of the Arab women, particularly of the lower class, expose their faces.

Both men and women slaves are sold publicly in the Bazar. I have before said, that the city is very populous. The majority of the people are Arabs, the rest are Turks and Armenians. The Turks are mostly men of some consequence, either being officers in the army, or holding some other posts under government. The Armenians are the merchants, and some of them are very respectable. They have a considerable trade with the EAST INDIES, and chiefly to BENGAL. In this trade several ships are employed, the largest of which does not exceed 400 tons, on account of a difficulty in crossing the bar. The ships from BUSSORA to BOMBAY, or BENGAL, usually receive a full cargo, the greater part of which consists of copper in small cakes and drugs of various kinds; and the BOMBAY ships generally take dried fruits. It is very seldom, however,

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ever, that a vessel sails to any part of INDIA without taking a considerable number of Arab horses. There are many instances of ships carrying away silver, in bars and specie, to the amount of twenty lacks of rupees, the specie chiefly in Spanish dollars and Venetian sequins. The greatest part of the trade of this branch of the Turkish empire is in the hands of the Armenians, who, when they have a considerable sum on hand, in order to prevent the Turks from laying hold of it, (which is sometimes the case) export it to INDIA, where they often receive 12 per cent. interest. The interest is usually remitted back in piece goods, with which they supply the greatest part of the Turkish empire. A considerable quantity of sugar and rice also is frequently imported from INDIA. The specie is sent here by the Armenians to their correspondents in most parts of the empire; considerable sums likewise are often sent from CONSTANTINOPLE. These are usually forwarded under the care of the
Tatars,

Tatars*, messengers of government, who receive a handsome premium for their trouble. The Tatars, however, are sometimes robbed and slain by the wandering tribes, who in formidable bodies infest the greater part of the Turkish dominions in ASIA. An instance of this happened only a month ago, when a Tatar, returning from CONSTANTINOPLE to BAGDAD with 6000 Venetian sequins, was attacked, robbed, and murdered, between DIAR-BEKIR and MOSUL.

With respect to the Arabs, the most numerous class of inhabitants, there are a few respectable men amongst them; but great numbers are extremely poor, labouring very hard for small wages. With a very little pay, however, they are enabled to support their families; for their dress costs them little; and their food consists of dates, bread, and water, with which they

* Usually, but very improperly, printed *Tartar*. See "Campbell's Journey over-land to India," and other works. It is pronounced *Tātar'*, the accent being on the last syllable.

are perfectly satisfied; and indeed, though their food is so simple, they have, generally speaking, twice the strength of Europeans, and are able to endure much more fatigue.

The streets in this city are so extremely narrow, as frequently to admit only one horse at a time; added to which, they are in many parts so very rough as to make it difficult for horses to pass.

Here is a Roman Catholic Church, a tolerably good building; and the people of that persuasion are not in the least molested.

Every person wears the dress of the country, particularly mustaches. I met here with the famous Armenian JOSEPH EMIN, who had been many years in England, and has lately published, in the English language, his travels and adventures, written by himself. He proposed going with his son to BENGAL, and thence to take him to ENGLAND. I made him

an offer to take his son with me to ENGLAND, as he would have been a very good interpreter, understanding the Armenian, Arabic, Turkish, and English, languages. The son, who was about 17 years of age, was very willing to accompany me; but the father, after deliberating some time, determined on following his original plan.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25.

EVERY thing having been prepared, under the direction of Mr. MANESTY, for our departure for BAGDAD, an Arab Sheik, named ABDALLAH TEEF, a very respectable man, engaged to conduct us safely thither; for which we paid him 1300 piaftres. This sum, it is to be observed, was only for three boats and guards, having ourselves provided a good stock of provisions of all sorts, with culinary utensils, cooks, and other servants, which cost us 500 piaftres more.

The clothes provided for each person were as follow :

- 1 Arab cameline, or riding cloak.
- 2 Under coats.
- 2 Pairs of drawers.
- 2 Shirts.
- 1 Cumberband.
- 1 Turban.
- 1 Woollen cap ; and
- 1 Pair of yellow slippers.

Our boats being brought up to MARGILL, at five o'clock we took leave of Mr. MANESTY, and embarked; two of the boats containing the passengers, the other boat our additional guards: Immediately after embarking, we were dressed so as exactly to resemble the Arabs in our appearance; and our mustaches were now grown pretty long, having never shaved since we left INDIA.

Every attention was paid to our personal safety, the Sheik being always in one of our

our boats, and his brother, AHMOOD SOLLAY, in the other.

As these boats were admirably calculated for their intended purpose, the following account of them may not be unacceptable:

Description of the boat generally called a Donek, but sometimes a Kiraffe, used by the Arabs upon the rivers EUPHRATES and TIGRIS.

The extreme breadth is 7 feet 9 inches. The length 42 feet. It is built of strong rough timbers at 18 inches distance, connected by small rough pieces of board, and covered with a coat of bitumen about half an inch thick on the outside, which, in case of a leak, is very easily repaired. The inside is lined with the same kind of rough boards, none above 3 feet long, and of very unequal breadths; the lining is, of course, full of holes.—Some of these boats, instead of boards, are covered with

basket-work, having a coat of bitumen upon it.—They are very sharp at each end, and sail fast.—Their oars are rough poles, having a piece of board tied on with a cord. They have besides strong timbers, which go down to the keel, and are about 3 feet above the gunwale; these are full of notches, to which they fasten the oars with strong kya rope; and by these means they either raise or lower the oar, as is most convenient. They have no tiller; but are enabled to steer with great accuracy by means of a strong kya rope fastened to both sides of the rudder; and they very seldom use more than five oars at a time.

We had part of the boat, abaft the mast, covered with mats to defend us from the sun, which we found of great service.

In the fore-part was a place built with brick and clay for the purpose of dressing our victuals; and this convenience we found

found of great use, as it enabled us to provide every thing necessary without delaying the passage by frequent landings.

These boats usually go from HILLA down the EUPHRATES to BUSSORA in three days, and are seldom four. From BAGDAD down the TIGRIS to BUSSORA they can never go in less than eight days, though the stream is much more rapid than the EUPHRATES; but it is above twice the length, on account of the many windings, and it runs a great way to the Eastward towards PERSIA.

We had a very pleasant breeze from the Southward, and with sails and oars went at the rate of five miles an hour, steering due North till 12 o'clock.

MONDAY, JUNE 26.

THE wind decreasing, we continued rowing till day-light at the rate of three miles an hour, when we stopped a short time

time on the Persian side of the river, for our people to refresh.

On the Arabian side, above MARGILL, there is neither cultivation, inhabitants, nor even vegetation, except near the banks of the river, where we saw a great number of camels grazing. Here was also much game.

The Persian side of the river had a better appearance, exhibiting extensive plantations of date-trees, and many villages.

The river is here about two miles broad, bearing N. N. W. and S. S. E.

The tide setting down, and having little wind, we were obliged to track. At eleven o'clock we crossed the mouth of a very large river on the Persian side, called by the natives SHAT-EL-AJAM; which, in Arabic, signifies a river of PERSIA; and they had no other name for it.

At

At one o'clock we arrived at CORNY, the conflux of the rivers EUPHRATES and TIGRIS. Here we remained two hours, and observed that the TIGRIS bore E. N. E. and the EUPHRATES due W. A ship of war was moored near the middle, between the two rivers, as a guard-ship, and to prevent vessels passing without paying customs. The two rivers, united here, form an immense body of fresh water.

From this place to the Persian Gulph is called by the natives SHAT-EL-ARAB.

The tide has seldom any influence so far as CORNY, except at the full and change of the moon; and even then the water is only raised a little; the current is not turned.

CORNY is supposed by some learned men to have been the site of the Garden of Eden. Its present wretched appearance, however, gives it no pretensions to the name of the Terrestrial Paradise, as described by MILTON. It is a small village,
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surrounded by a mud wall; containing few inhabitants, with very little cultivation. There is, indeed, a small plantation of date-trees between the village and the river, and which forms a very agreeable shade. Here the Arabs sit and spend most of their time, seeming to depend for their livelihood much more on their exactions from passengers, than on their own industry.

The officers of the customs expected a present from our Sheik; but as he had no merchandize under his care, he did not pay any thing.

We left CORNY at three o'clock, and went up the EUPHRATES, which is called by the Arabs SHAT-EL-FRAATE. We now crossed over to the western banks of the river; but having little wind from the East, and being obliged to track and row, we went at the rate of only three miles an hour. The country here was very little inhabited, being wet, swampy, and covered with reeds and willows. I fired
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at a crane among the willows; and instantly after the report, a large herd of wild hogs rushed out, some of them of such extraordinary size, that at first sight I could scarcely believe they were hogs. Their colour is a deep red. In the neighbourhood of BUSSORA some wild hogs have been killed, whose carcases have weighed 10 cwt. English. As the Arabs do not eat them, they are permitted to remain unmolested. It is said, that they continue growing as long as they live; and indeed the immense size of some of them seems to sanction such an opinion.

At sun-set we saw several jackalls prowling near the banks of the river. I fired at one with ball, and killed it.

We continued rowing and tracking till eight o'clock, when we made our boats fast to the western banks of the river near a large tomb, where we remained all night, but had very little rest, the musquitoes being extremely troublesome, and the howling of the jackalls, wolves, and

other wild beasts, in the neighbourhood, rendering our situation truly dismal.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27.

At day-break we resumed our voyage, tracking up the right bank of the river. The country here afforded a pleasing prospect, abounding with plantations of date-trees and fields of corn. At two o'clock we passed several Arab encampments, near which were great numbers of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, and goats. At three we passed a breach in the right bank of the river, which has overflowed the Great Desert for about three hundred miles, and has alarmed the inhabitants of BUSSORA and that neighbourhood very much. The excessive heat of the sun, with the immense numbers of fish and animalcules that perish when it dries up, serve to putrify the air, which in general proves fatal to great numbers; and hence the Arabs call it *the water of death*.

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Here were many men employed to stop the breach; but with all their humble efforts, it appeared that it would be some time before they would be able to accomplish it. They were carrying along embankments made of bundles of reeds, which were often forced away by the stream as soon as they were laid. I am persuaded that half a dozen Englishmen, with proper implements and materials, would complete in a few hours what fifty of these people could not finish in a week.

At sun-set we made our boats fast to the right banks of the river, on which we remained all night; but, as on that preceding, we could get very little rest on account of the musquitoes, and the horrible noises made by the wild beasts in the vicinity.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28.

AT day-break unmoored, and continued tracking as before. We passed several

ral more breaches in the banks, which had overflowed great part of the neighbouring country, and prevented the inhabitants from sowing their corn and paddy. We likewise passed several Arab encampments with abundance of cattle. Our continuing always on the same side of the river was matter of choice merely, and because we did not perceive any thing interesting on the opposite shore. The course of the river is from W. to W. by S.

At sun-set we arrived at a very large town on the right bank of the river called SUKE-SHUE. Here Mr. STEVENS, Captain REID, and myself, procured each a musquito tent, which we found of infinite service, as it enabled us to get a little sleep, which we very much wanted. Though we always laid upon the bare ground, we were now enabled to sleep very comfortably, being relieved from those tormenting insects, by whom I have been frequently so much bitten as to be scarcely able to open my eyes.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, JUNE 29.

WE remained at SUKE-SHUE the whole day, some of my boatmen having behaved impertinently to AHMOOD SOLLAY, who drew his tolwa on one of them, and was with difficulty prevented from taking his head off. Our Sheik, therefore, discharged the boat and crew, and procured another of the same kind. Of course, all our stores were to be moved, and a new place built for our cook to dress the victuals in.

We were here treated by our Sheik with a dinner in the Arab fashion. It consisted of a dozen and a half of fish, about the size of mackarel, fried in ghie; a dozen boiled fowls; and cakes made of barley flour, fresh baked, with plenty of milk. We sat upon the ground, agreeable to the custom of the country, in a garden adjoining the river, under the shade of a grove of date and fig-trees. The fish, fowls, and bread, were very

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sweet

sweet and good; but the milk was sour, and not very palatable to an European. We did not make use of knives and forks, as in Europe, but ate with our fingers, as the Arabs do, tearing the fowls and fish in pieces; and the Sheik seemed highly pleased by our compliance with their customs.

I was much amused by observing the dexterity of the Arab women in baking their bread. They have a small place built with clay, between two and three feet high, having a hole at the bottom, for the convenience of drawing out the ashes, something similar to that of a lime kiln. The oven (which I think is the most proper name for this place) is usually about fifteen inches wide at top, and gradually grows wider to the bottom. It is heated with wood, and when sufficiently hot, and perfectly clear from smoke, having nothing but clear embers at bottom (which continue to reflect great heat), they prepare the dough in a large bowl, and mould the cakes to the desired size
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on a board or stone placed near the oven. After they have kneaded the cake to a proper consistence, they pat it a little, then toss it about with great dexterity in one hand, till it is as thin as they choose to make it. They then wet one side of it with water, at the same time wetting the hand and arm with which they put it into the oven. The wet side of the cake adheres fast to the side of the oven till it is sufficiently baked, when, if not paid proper attention to, it would fall down among the embers. If they were not exceedingly quick at this work, the heat of the oven would burn the skin from off their hands and arms; but with such amazing dexterity do they perform it, that one woman will continue keeping three or four cakes at a time in the oven till she has done baking. This mode, let me add, does not require half the fuel that is made use of in EUROPE.

SUKE-SHUE is a very large and populous town, and the residence of SHEIK TWYNEY, a very powerful Arab Prince;

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having under his government the whole of the right banks of the EUPHRATES, from nearly as high as HILLA down to BUSSORA. He was once in open rebellion against the Turkish government, and took possession of the city of BUSSORA. Being defeated by the present Bashaw of BAGDAD, he fled into PERSIA; but afterwards returned to solicit his pardon; and as he was much revered by the Arabs, and likely to prove a powerful enemy, the Bashaw thought it prudent to pardon him, and reinstate him in his government. He was not here, however, at this time; for, being a most able general, he had been sent by the Bashaw of BAGDAD, to oppose the progress of the WAABY, who is extending his conquests up the western shore of the Persian gulph, almost as high as GRAIN, and propagating a new religion, which, like MAHOMET, he enforces by the sword.

The SHEIK's army amounts to thirty thousand men; of whom ten thousand are Turkish soldiers, and twenty thousand Arab recruits.

I took

I took a walk with our Sheik through the town, and went into the Bazar, or market, which is about a mile long. It is opened at sun-rise, and continues till nine o'clock; it is then shut up, opened again at three, and continues till sun-set.

The Sheik also took me into a coffee-house, where I was treated with coffee, after the custom of the country. I was also obliged to smoke tobacco, they presenting me with a pipe about a yard and half long. I sat down on a mat cross-legged, like the rest of the company, and they served the coffee in a small China cup about the size of half an egg-shell; but I could not get either milk or sugar, without which the beverage was rather unpleasant, till I became accustomed to it.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30.

THIS morning the Sheik who officiated in the absence of Sheik TWYNEY paid us a

visit, and brought his daughter with him. She was about twelve years of age; and every person was obliged to stand in his presence, except ourselves and our Sheik. I had here an opportunity of observing the respect which the Arabs pay to their Chiefs. An Arab of distinction, having a letter of some consequence for the Sheik, presented it on his knees, and received it back again in the same posture, the secretary having, after reading the letter, put the Sheik's seal on the back of it.

The Sheiks and principal people wear on the left hand a neat silver or gold ring, in which a square stone is set, with their names engraved on it at full length. On this ring they lay a thick ink, till it will make a fair impression, then stamp it on the letter, and this serves for their signature. Some of the stones are red, and some white cornelians.

We were much pestered here by a number of people having different disorders; for
they

they imagine that an European can cure all complaints, and implicitly adopt whatever is prescribed for them.

Our Sheik now engaged to take another boat under his protection to BAGDAD. It contained a few bales of BENGAL piece-goods, and had for passengers an Armenian woman, with her son, about sixteen, and two daughters, one about fourteen, the other thirteen years of age.

Setting out from SUKE-SHUE at eleven o'clock, and leaving one boat behind, we crossed the river, and tracked up the left banks till three o'clock, when we recrossed, and made our boats fast near a village called GOMCREEK, where we pitched our tents.

There being much game in the neighbourhood, I took my gun, and having an Arab with me to carry my powder and shot, saw some beautiful green birds, which I wished much to examine. It was not long before I brought one down; but the

Arab ran immediately and cut off its head, calling out *zain, zain*, meaning that it was very good to eat. I afterwards shot several birds of different kinds, all of which the Arab served in the same way, nor could I prevent him.

Several branches of the river meeting at this place, we found stationed here a Collector of the Customs, who was a native of CONSTANTINOPLE, on which he valued himself not a little. He was a very great drunkard, and would do any thing for wine. We gave him a few bottles of Shiras, considering old Madeira and old Claret as too good for him. He was greatly pleased with our present, and soon became intoxicated.

SATURDAY, JULY 1.

WE waited here this morning till nine o'clock for one of our boats which had been left at SUKE-SHUE; as soon as it came up, we departed.

The river, a little above this place, is very broad, nearly as far as the eye can reach; but in many parts it is so very shoal, that reeds make their appearance above the surface of the water. We now altered our course to the Eastward, and entered a river called by the Arabs SHAT-EL-DEGELA, which communicates with another named SHAT-EL-HIE, being a branch of the TIGRIS.

I cannot quit the EUPHRATES without taking notice of its salubrious water, which is by much the most pleasant that I ever tasted. Though very muddy when it is first taken up, it soon becomes perfectly clear; and while I could get this water, I had not the least desire for either wine or spirits. We continued tracking up the river (or rather canal) called SHAT-EL-DEGELA till six o'clock, when we made our boats fast to the banks, and pitched our tents not far from some Arab encampments.

Our

Our Sheik represented to us, that this was a very dangerous situation, and recommended us to keep our arms in our tents, in case of an attack. We had each a gun, a brace of pistols, and a sabre; and our Sheik, his brother, and all the guards, remained under arms during the night. They placed some centinels at a distance from the tents for fear of a surprize, and passed the watch-word from one to another the night through. We were not, however, molested.

To be obliged to have weapons by my side while lying down on the bare earth to take a little rest, was what I had never before experienced. Whoever travels through these countries, ought not to put so much value on his life as I conceive Europeans in general do where they are perfectly secure, except from casualties. This country is in a state of perpetual warfare; many of the inhabitants, under no controul, live in a state of nature, and are not susceptible of the nobler passions.

They

They murder and plunder, without remorse, all whom they can overpower, and are at war against all the world, except their own tribe. Such is the present state of one of the most fertile countries in the universe. No traveller is safe, having reason to expect every moment to be attacked by a superior force; but when I undertook this journey I was perfectly resigned, and prepared to encounter difficulties and dangers. Our Sheik conducted himself much to our satisfaction, and did every thing in his power to make us comfortable.

SUNDAY, JULY 2.

THIS morning we struck our tents at day-break, and at eight o'clock arrived at the head of the DEGELA, when we entered a larger river, which is divided into two branches: the one that we went up running S. E. the other W. We proceeded up this river in a course almost due N.

Whether

Whether these branches have been cut to water the country, or not, is uncertain; but I am inclined to think they have. The ground for about forty yards from the river is usually three or four feet higher than it is further inland. This I have frequently observed when I have gone a-shooting. The larger branches are often near a quarter of a mile broad, and the smaller about half that distance. They make the country through which they run exceedingly fertile; but I have no doubt that these different branches are much larger than they were originally, and that they are still increasing, as the *TIGRIS*, from which they are supplied, is much more rapid than the *EUPHRATES*, particularly at this season, when the freshes are coming down from the snowy mountains.

At twelve o'clock we entered the river called by the Arabs *SHAT-EL-HIE*, running from the N. N. W. We found it divided into three other branches, beside the one at which we entered; two branches running

running West, and one East of that we came up. At one o'clock, passing the mouth of a river running from the East, we continued tracking till four, when we rested an hour to refresh, and at six made our boats fast to the banks, where we remained all night.

I observed that our Sheik always chose as open a country as he could find, to remain in all night, for fear of being attacked by the Arabs at a disadvantage.

We were again much disturbed by the jackalls, who seemed very near us, and made a most hideous noise.

MONDAY, JULY 3.

WE struck our tents, and set out at sun-rise, continuing to track up the river SHAT-EL-HIE. At ten o'clock the course of the river was from N. N. E.; at eleven, due North, and it continued nearly North till six o'clock, when we made our boats fast

fast to the banks, and were soon after visited by some Arabs on horseback. They were about twenty in number, armed with spears and tolwas. As the horsemen approached, our Sheik, with a double-barrelled gun in his hand, walked about twenty yards to meet the Chief of the other party, who also advanced before his people about the same distance. After some conversation between the two Chiefs, the whole advanced. I observed that the Chief was mounted on a beautiful Arab mare, and remarked it to be a general rule, that Sheiks and men of consequence are always mounted on mares, which are usually valued at three times the price of horses.

To those who are strangers to the language, manners, and customs, of this country, it is no unuseful thing to recollect, that whenever a man is mounted on a mare it may be depended on that he is above the common class. Dress cannot be relied on; for a Sheik will often have his meanest servant dressed much better than himself, and will eat out of
the

the same dish with him, as if they were equals.

Shooting being the only amusement I could enjoy, and here being plenty of game, I wished to embrace every opportunity. I had usually taken an Arab or two with me on these expeditions; but here I could not prevail on any one to accompany me, and was particularly desired by the Sheik not to go, there being much jungle, from which I might be surprized by the Arabs, or attacked by lions, which he said were very numerous in this neighbourhood. Our Sheik fully expected a night-attack, and therefore, with his brother and all the guards, remained under arms all night, the Sheik constantly walking round our tents with a double-barrelled gun in his hand. A very good look-out, and probably the preparations which the horsemen observed us to be making for our defence, prevented our being molested.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, JULY 4.

THIS morning we struck our tents, and departed at a quarter past four o'clock. At six we arrived where two rivers meet; one branch running from the N. N. W. the other from E. by N. We took the latter, and continued tracking till twelve o'clock, when we rested under the shade of some willows till three; for, in the middle of the day, the heat of the sun was so excessive, that our boatmen were not able to endure it. They were in general nearly naked, having no other covering than a small woollen cap, which barely fits the crown of the head. The course of the river winding from North to West, we observed the banks of those large branches seven and eight feet above the surface of the water.

I have not seen one stone the natural produce of the country since I left Bus-sora, but a soft brown soil, very deep;
and

and a bank of seven or eight feet does not make the least alteration in the colour of the soil. The rapid current continues deepening the beds of these rivers, and in consequence the Arabs are not able to water many parts of the country, which renders it uninhabitable except on the banks of the river. Where they cannot have water, the excessive heat of the sun soon destroys all vegetation, and particularly at this season.

At five o'clock we passed a village on the Western banks of the river, called WAASUT. The river is here above half a mile broad. Our Sheik was particularly careful not to go near the village, but continued tracking up the opposite banks, and made as much haste as possible. "All the inhabitants," said the Sheik, "are desperate thieves, and have no mercy on those who are so unfortunate as to fall into their hands; for they are under no government or controul except that of their own leaders, who are every whit as bad as themselves."

At six o'clock we made our boats fast to the western banks of the river, not being able to find a convenient place on the opposite side. We pitched our tents close to the water's edge, the Sheik keeping a good look-out for fear of a surprize; nor was I permitted to shoot, for fear the report should discover where we were, having a very thick jungle behind us.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5.

WE struck our tents and set out this morning at one o'clock, our Sheik not thinking it safe to remain in such a neighbourhood after the moon went down. At six o'clock we stopped to refresh, and in half an hour continued our course, the river winding very much, and bearing from S. W. to North. We rested under some willows from twelve till two; and at three arrived at the town called HIE, from which this river takes its name. It is situated on the Eastern banks; and, the inhabitants of this town not being much

better than those of WAASUT, our Sheik mustered all his guards a little above the town, amounting to thirty men, all exceedingly well armed, and dressed in their best clothes. On account, I suppose, of their formidable appearance, our Sheik was not required here to pay any thing.

He spread a carpet on the ground, and with his brother, and another principal officer, sat down, having all the guards under arms drawn up near them. Here they were visited by the principal men in the town, who were treated with pipes and coffee. The Sheik, however, kept the double-barrelled gun lying on the carpet before him, and ready to fire in a moment; the other officers and men being equally prepared.

This ceremony must appear very strange to those who are wholly unacquainted with the singular manners and customs of these people; but all this caution is perfectly necessary till they have given the salam and ate together. When that has

been done, there can be no room for apprehension. An Arab, after he has eaten or drank with another, let him be ever so great a stranger, and of whatever religion or country, would sooner perish than suffer him to receive the least injury, either in person or property; and whoever, in distress, puts himself entirely under the protection of an Arab, may rely upon being defended in the most faithful manner.

An instance of this singular trait in the character of the Arabs occurred not long ago. A Frenchman was carrying dispatches to INDIA, across the Great Desert, from ALEPPO to BUSSORA. He had with him an Interpreter, and an escort of about eighty men, mostly on camels. When about five days journey from BUSSORA, they were attacked in the evening by a wandering tribe of Arabs. The Messenger had a double-barrelled gun, with which he shot the Sheik of the hostile party; but they rushed with such fury at the first onset, that before he had time to charge again, he was cut down with a sabre.

Most of the Messenger's guards being killed, they were stripped by the conquerors, and the Messenger among the rest, it being imagined that he was dead. After the engagement, the Arabs lighted fires to make coffee and refresh themselves; and, as is customary with them, sat on the ground in a circle round the fire.

The Messenger's wound not proving mortal, (for though he had one side of his face cut down, his skull was not materially injured) he at length recovered his senses; and finding himself entirely naked, as well as much weakened by the loss of blood, he had nearly given himself up to despair. But, recollecting to have heard of this singular disposition in the Arabs, he resolved to try the experiment, as the only means of saving his life, or putting an end to his existence. He took a view of the Arabs sitting round the fire, and singled out him whom he thought most likely to be the Chief, as being the oldest-looking man in the company. Naked as

he was, and almost covered with blood, he rushed into the ring, and threw himself at his feet. His conjecture was right. This old man was the Chief, who immediately covered him with his cloak. He was now at a loss for an Interpreter; but, on search being made, the Interpreter was found in a similar situation, wounded, but not dangerously. The Messenger had his clothes and dispatches returned to him; and the Chief entered into an agreement to deliver him safe at BUSSORA, on the Messenger promising to pay him one hundred Venetian sequins. Both parties performed their agreement; the Messenger arrived safe, and had engaged a dow to take him to MUSCAT. This having reached the English Resident's ears, he seized the Messenger with his dispatches, and had his wounds dressed by the English Surgeon. It was imagined that the Messenger, if suffered to proceed, would not have reached INDIA, as his wounds required much surgical assistance.

But

But to return from this digression:

It is customary for these people to lay very heavy contributions on vessels and passengers that pass this way, or plunder them when they do not comply with their demands; and in case of the least resistance, they will seize the boats and murder every person on board. In this they have an advantage over boats going up the river, which being obliged to track against both wind and stream, their progress is seldom more than four miles an hour; but going downwards there is very little danger; for the current being very rapid, and the wind usually blowing fresh from the N. W. all vessels go at a great rate, and particularly the small doneks, which sail remarkably fast. HIE is a small town surrounded by a mud wall; but the inhabitants are very numerous in proportion to the size of the place. We left it at five o'clock, and continued tracking till half past seven, our men making more haste than usual, to get as far as possible out of

the reach of those people, lest they should attack us in the night. We made our boats fast to the opposite banks of the river.

The locusts in this country are very numerous. I caught one this evening of a different colour from the common locust, and much larger. Its very extraordinary appearance induced me to make a sketch of it from life, of the exact natural size. Every part of it is green, except the under wings, which are crimson; and when flying it has a beautiful appearance. The eyes are very remarkable.

THURSDAY, JULY 6.

THIS morning at four o'clock we struck our tents, and tracked briskly till eight, when we refreshed, set out again at ten, and continued tracking till six in the evening, without any delay. We then secured the boats, and pitched our tents on the Eastern banks of the river.

I took

I took an Arab with me and went a-footing about a mile from the river, where I found a great many partridges. This part of the country, excepting about fifty yards by the river side, is a perfect desert, though it appears to have been once cultivated, there being still the remains of canals that have been cut to water the country, at distances of about two hundred yards, on the banks of the river, and communicating with each other inland. In some places banks have been made all round, to keep the water, as in paddy grounds.

The river here runs so rapidly that it has deepened its bed; the banks are ten feet perpendicular above the surface of the water, yet at that depth there is not the least variation in the colour of the soil.

The surface of the earth at a distance from the river is whitish, having a mixture of salt for about half a foot in depth; and

and below that, a dark brown earth, the same as on the banks of the river.

At a great distance to the eastward, we saw a long chain of lofty mountains ranging N. W. and S. E. called the Curdistan mountains.

FRIDAY, JULY 7.

WE set out at four o'clock this morning; and at eight, by an E. N. E. course, entered the river TIGRIS, called by the Arabs, SHAT-EL-AMAAR. Nearly opposite, on the eastern banks of the TIGRIS, is a small town called COOTE, off which several stout vessels were lying at anchor.

The main body of the river runs S. S. E.; and from the best observation I could make, it appeared that the HIR, which we came up, had been originally a canal cut to water the country, but had in course of time increased to a very large river,

river, containing much more fresh water than the THAMES.

The TIGRIS is here above a mile broad; and, though reckoned at its height, on account of the snow melting upon the mountains, the banks were upwards of ten feet perpendicular above the surface of the water. Several large droves of camels were grazing upon its banks.

We found the river very crooked, winding from N. N. E. to South. At six o'clock passed a Turkish camp pitched on the western banks, and made our boats fast to the same banks, about half a mile above them. The Turkish tents had a very handsome appearance, some being red, others green, and some white. The army consisted of six thousand horse; and the Bashaw had two armed vessels to attend him on the river; these were about 150 tons burden each, and were built much like the Grabs in the EAST-INDIES.

This

This army had been sent to punish some rebellious Arabs in this neighbourhood, who had murdered the Sheik of HILLA, and several other officers under the Turkish Government. Our Sheik dressed himself and half a dozen of his slaves in their best clothes, and paid a visit to the Bashaw.

SATURDAY, JULY 8.

WE struck our tents at three o'clock this morning, and continued rowing and tracking incessantly till twelve, when we rested under some willows till three, the course of the river winding from S. W. to West. We found an intolerable stench from the Western banks, and were informed, that it proceeded from the bodies of some Arabs who had been put to death by the Turkish army. We were also told, that many of the Chiefs of the rebellious Arabs had escaped by flight on the approach of the army, leaving behind them their flocks, which were seized by order
of

of the Bashaw, and driven to BAGDAD to be fold.

We tracked till half past six o'clock, and then pitched our tents on the western banks of the river.

SUNDAY, JULY 9.

WE fet out at four o'clock, and continued rowing and tracking till twelve, when we remained an hour to kill a bullock. The course of the river winding from N. W. to N. N. E. we tracked till three o'clock, and stopped an hour to refresh; then tracked up the western banks till half past six.

I took my gun, attended by an Arab, and went a-shooting upwards of a mile from the banks of the river. I shot several kinds of birds, particularly some very fine partridges, which were nearly of the size of English pheasants.

It

It did not appear that this part had ever been cultivated; nor did I perceive any signs of vegetation, except near the banks of the river, which are in general covered with a thick jungle of willows and shrubs. The Arabs are frequently obliged to cut a passage through the jungle, for their sheep and cattle to get to the river; and the banks are in many places so steep, that they are even obliged to cut them, and make a road to the water's edge.

At the upper end of a small island, near the middle of the river, we saw the wreck of a large dow, hull under water. She was lost there three weeks before, and was worth ten lacks of rupees, having on board four lacks of Spanish dollars, and other specie, and being loaded with copper for BUSSORA. The owners have a guard to watch her, and purpose weighing her when the river is at the lowest, which is usually about Christmas.

Though the river is here at least two miles broad, two of the guards, who were stationed

stationed to watch the vessel, swam across. In swimming they greatly assist themselves by the skin of a goat, blown like a bladder, which they keep under their breast, where, however, it is not fastened, but only kept in its position by one hand, while they push forward with the other and their feet; and in this manner they can cross the river almost as soon as a boat. Their clothes, and sometimes their fire-arms, they fasten on the top of the head, and carry them over perfectly dry. These men having informed us, that we should be much more comfortable on the opposite banks, where there was very little jungle, we crossed the river at nine o'clock.

MONDAY, JULY 10.

BEFORE we set out this morning, we were visited by some Arabs from the neighbouring encampments, which extended, to the right and left, as far as the eye could reach, having with them innumerable flocks of sheep and herds of cattle.

We

We were perfectly safe among these people, and our Sheik informed us, that we became wholly out of danger as we approached nearer the seat of government. We set out at sun-rise, and passed several droves of camels grazing on the banks. The river ran very crooked till eleven o'clock, when we entered a long reach lying N.E. and S. W. the stream very rapid, and about a mile and a half broad.

I had here an opportunity of observing the progress of the hot winds, called by the natives Samiel, which sometimes prove very destructive, particularly at this season. They are most dangerous between twelve and three o'clock, when the atmosphere is at its greatest degree of heat. Their force entirely depends on the surface over which they pass. If it be over a desert, where there is no vegetation, they extend their dimensions with amazing velocity, and then their progress is sometimes to windward. If over grass, or any other vegetation, they soon diminish, and lose much of their force. If over water, they

they lose all their electrical fire, and ascend; yet I have sometimes felt their effects across the river where it was at least a mile broad. An instance of this happened here. Mr. STEVENS was bathing in the river, having on a pair of Turkish drawers. On his return from the water, there came a hot wind across the river, which made his drawers and himself perfectly dry in an instant. Had such a circumstance been related to him by another person, he declared, he could not have believed it. I was present, and felt the force of the hot wind; but should otherwise have been as incredulous as Mr. STEVENS.

Captain REID, who had often been my companion in shooting (an amusement of which he was equally fond as myself), having been unwell, I had been deprived of his company for above a week past; and he now became so much overpowered by the excessive heat, as to be scarcely able to walk. The heat being also too much for our rowers, at noon we made

our boats fast to the eastern banks of the river, where our people rested under the shade of some willows for two hours.

Going through the jungle to the edge of the Desert, I saw some partridges at a little distance, and was tempted to try if I could get a shot; but having only my slippers on, I found great inconvenience from the excessive heat of the Desert, and was glad to get back again to the river; for, though my feet were not blistered, yet the skin soon after peeled off the soles. Hitherto I had always worn a pair of strong boots, which I found extremely convenient both with respect to the heat, and as a safeguard from the reptiles and venomous insects, which in some places were very numerous; and I was particularly careful never to go out again so lightly equipped.

At two o'clock we resumed our voyage, and continued tracking up the eastern banks of the river till half past six.

My

My feet being very tender from what I had suffered at noon, and an impenetrable jungle lying behind us, in which our people said there were many lions, I contented myself with shooting pigeons by the river side near the boats, whither they came in great numbers to drink at sun-set.

TUESDAY, JULY 11.

WE set out again at half past four o'clock, and tracked up the eastern banks, the course of the river winding very much, and bearing from N. E. to West. At noon we crossed, and tracked up the western banks, till the evening, when we recrossed, and pitched our tents near an extensive Arab encampment, where the river was above a mile broad. Our Sheik, not being under any apprehension from the neighbouring Arabs, lay down near our tents, and took his regular sleep.

Captain REID was now become exceedingly ill, and, as it seemed, must inevitably perish without some medical assistance. He was much troubled with bile, and had a liver complaint. I had brought some medicines with me from INDIA, made up by our surgeon, and wished to give Captain REID an emetic to take off the bile; but on examining my drugs, though closely packed in a tin case, I found the whole entirely spoiled, having got wet when the ship was stranded on the island of CARRICK.

In this neighbourhood were many pelicans, by far the largest birds that fly. I often shot at them, but was never able to take one.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12.

WE fet out this morning at four o'clock, and continued tracking till two; then stopped till three to refresh. The river winding as before from N. E. to West, with

with short reaches, we met several Kiraffes laden with refreshments for the Turkish army, the cargo of one of them consisting entirely of water melons.

We continued tracking till half past six o'clock, having been interrupted some time by a dispute among our boatmen, who fought up to the middle in water, some with spears, others with tolwas. Several spears were broken, but no lives lost. Our Sheik remained a quiet spectator of the affray, the quarrel being entirely among the boatmen, and none of his people being concerned in it.

We made our boats fast to the eastern banks of the river, and pitched our tents near the ruins of the ancient city of CTESIPHON.

THURSDAY, JULY 13.

DEPARTING this morning at half past four, we tracked up the eastern banks,

and often observed, that in many parts the current setting against them had worn them away considerably. The banks being near ten feet perpendicular above the surface of the water, we saw the foundations of several ancient buildings, which were chiefly of brick, and so strongly cemented together as often to overhang the water. Here were also visible a great many earthen jars; some half exposed, others ready to fall into the river; and some of them were of singular construction.

The river here takes a circuit to the southward for about ten miles, and leaves only a narrow neck of land, on which are still standing many lofty walls and towers, being fragments of ancient CTESIPHON.

We met with several stout vessels, some upwards of two hundred tons burden, laden with fire-wood, and bound to BAGDAD. They appeared to me of such a singular construction, and so ill adapted

for the purpose, that I was induced to take a sketch of one of them.

The rudder is composed of a great quantity of rough timbers very awkwardly put together, and is guided by a tiller. They are built of very coarse materials, and covered with a thick coat of bitumen. The lofty head is generally ornamented with a variety of shells stuck into the bitumen. They form altogether a very uncouth specimen of naval architecture, and require twenty, and sometimes thirty trackers; but when the wind blows strong, even they are not able to move them.

On my enquiring the reason why they made use of vessels so ill adapted to the purpose, that a man with a very slight knowledge of naval architecture might soon discover their inconveniences, and observing, that a vessel built upon a plan similar to our ware barges would carry as much cargo, draw less water, and might be worked with one-third of the men; the

answer I received convinced me of the danger and inutility of attempting any innovation among these people. I was told, that the children invariably continued to follow the trade of their fore-fathers; thus the sons of a carpenter are all carpenters, &c.; that their fore-fathers had always built vessels upon the same plan, and that it would be reckoned very prophane in them to deviate from the custom of their ancestors. This completely solves the problem, and shews to what a length superstition and prejudice is carried among them.

These people have continued from the earliest period to speak the same language, wear the same kind of dress, and eat and drink in the same manner. Their mode of warfare is still the same; and scarcely the slightest deviation has taken place in their manners and customs, prejudices and passions; though almost every other nation has undergone a thorough revolution within a few centuries.

Should

Should a man here, convinced of a defect in any branch of trade, offer to adopt an improvement, complaint would soon be made to the Mufti, and the artist probably pay for his temerity with his life.

At sun-set we passed JAVER, on the western banks of the river. Though but a small town, it is much celebrated on account of a very beautiful mosque that stands in it. At nine o'clock we crossed the mouth of a large river running from the North, called by the Arabs SHAT-EL-DEAAL, and at half past nine made our boats fast to the eastern banks of the river, which were here upwards of twelve feet above the surface of the water. They were likewise so steep that we could scarcely ascend them; and we found the top of them so rough with small shrubs, that we were obliged to clear a place before we could lie down. Among these shrubs, however, were many of delightful fragrance.

FRIDAY, JULY 14.

We fet out this morning at two o'clock, and continued tracking till two in the afternoon, when we reached BAGDAD. The river was very crooked, being nearly round the compass, yet from the place where we fet out in the morning was only three hours walk by land.

We arrived at the house of Mr. J. L. RENAUD (an agent to Mr. MANESTY, of BUSSORA), which was very conveniently situated adjacent to the river.

An Englishman has at BAGDAD a privilege which is not granted to the people of any other nation. Whatever baggage he may have with him, instead of being taken to the Custom-house, is allowed to be carried to the place where he is going to reside, and an officer of the customs is sent thither to examine it.

This

This privilege was obtained by the solicitation of Mr. MANESTY in favour of his countrymen, and will at all times be advantageous to the interest as well as the convenience of a traveller.

BAGDAD is seated on the eastern banks of the TIGRIS. It is a large and populous city, extending along the banks of the river about three miles; and the length of the walls from the river being about two miles, gives it the form of an oblong square. The houses, though very inferior to the European, are much better built than those of BUSSORA, but nearly in the same file.

Many of the public-buildings, such as mosques, minarets, and hummums, are constructed of hewn stone, and make a very handsome appearance. Here is also an extensive Bazar, which is well supplied with variety of articles; but the prices in general are much higher than at BUSSORA.

The

The Armenians are the principal merchants here; the manufactories carried on are few, and those confined to articles for immediate use, as shoes, boots, clothes, fadlery, and culinary utensils.

The Armenians at MOSUL send great quantities of copper down the TIGRIS to BAGDAD upon rafts of timber fastened together. On their arrival the rafts are sold, wood being very scarce here. The copper is afterwards shipped for BUSSORA on-board large dows, which are usually about six months in performing the voyage thither and back again. The copper is in small round cakes about six inches broad, and nearly two inches thick in the middle, but gradually sloping to the edges. It is of a quality nearly the same as English battery cake copper.

This trade, which has not long been carried on, is fast increasing to a very great extent; for sometimes ships sail from BUSSORA laden almost entirely with copper; and

and I am persuaded that it will in time prove prejudicial to the English manufactories. Labour being much cheaper in these countries than in EUROPE, they are enabled to carry it to a market at a much cheaper rate; and this makes it very profitable to those at present concerned in it.

Though BAGDAD is much better built than any other city in this part of the world, it is still very inferior to many cities in EUROPE. Every house wears the appearance of a prison, as described in BUSSORA, but composed of better materials; they are in general of brick, and the timbers very good, being those which are floated down the TIGRIS.

The streets are very narrow and dusty. I had near half a mile to go every night to sleep, and usually set out about eleven o'clock, always taking a Turkish servant with a lantern, as it would have been very dangerous to walk at such a time without a light. Scorpions, tarantulas, and other noxious insects, were very numerous.

merous. Of the former I have frequently killed four or five in a night; they are of the large black kind, and their stings often prove mortal.

All persons at this season of the year sleep on the tops of their houses; and I have often been entertained by seeing the people run off with their clothes in their hands at sun-rise; for as soon as it has risen above the horizon it becomes excessively hot. I soon learned, however, that even looking over our own parapet-wall was a deed of danger; for that the Turks would not hesitate a moment to shoot at any person whom they might discover overlooking their houses. The house where I slept was near the middle of the city, and very lofty, none being higher in the city, except the minarets, the seraglio, and a few houses belonging to the ministers and principal officers.

Here are many cranes, much larger and very different from any that we have in EUROPE. They build their nests upon the
tops

tops of the minarets and the loftiest houses, where they are never molested, and are in consequence very tame. I have often been within two yards of their nests without exciting in them any fear.

As there are no canals to water the city, many poor people are constantly employed in carrying water from the river in skins. Some take it on their backs, while others have asses and mules.

Without the walls, to the westward, is entirely desert, not having the least traces of vegetation, except on the banks of the river. Behind the city, to the northward, the same barrenness prevails; there is no water nor any cultivation. To the eastward, along the banks of the river, there are excellent gardens, which extend about four miles; and a great many houses filled with inhabitants stand without the walls.

The city, however, is chiefly supplied with fruits and vegetables from the opposite
site

site side of the river, where there is much cultivation.

The Bafhaw and some of the principal people have country seats in this neighbourhood. This was the site of ancient SELEUCIA, built by SELEUCIES, one of ALEXANDER's generals, who succeeded to the government of this part of the country; and several of his coins are still to be met with in BAGDAD. The gold coin is worth about two guineas; it bears as strong an impression of the head as the ancient Roman coins, but has a long beard.

A little farther, towards HILLA, are still to be seen some ruins of ancient BABYLON.

During my stay at BAGDAD the Turkish army, consisting of six thousand horse, returned from their encampment on the banks of the TIGRIS; and their crossing the river over a bridge of boats at the upper

upper end of the city at sun-rise in regular procession, had a very pretty appearance. The day before their arrival they sent to BAGDAD as many sheep and cattle as sold for a lack and a half of piasters. These were the flocks that belonged to the rebellious Arabs.

BAGDAD at present is supposed to contain more treasure than any city of equal size in the world; and the immense quantity of specie and bullion found in the coffers of the late Kya (or Prime Minister) of BAGDAD seems to warrant such a conjecture. He was murdered a few months ago by conspirators employed against him by the present Kya; and when the Bashaw seized on his property, an exact account was taken of his treasure, which amounted in value to upwards of 3,000,000*l.* sterling.

The following story is related of the late Kya by the merchants; and many of them, much to their sorrow, are enabled to vouch for the truth of it: it also proves to what a length many of the Turkish

Ministers and Bafhaws carry their tyranny and oppreffion. He was a man (fay they) of fuperior abilities, had the confidence of the Bafhaw, and kept a moft ftrict watch over the conduct of all officers, civil and military; hence it was, that fo many of them readily joined in the confpiracy. He was withal very avaricious, and invented many fingular methods of adding to his treasure; among others, the following proved very productive: he always kept fpies over the merchants in the Bazar; and when he heard of any difpute among them, he would firft fend for one of the parties, queftion him refpecting the matter in difpute, and, under a plea of the government being in want of money, enquire how much he would give to gain his caufe. The fum was ufually in proportion to the wealth of the complainant, and the animofity between the parties; fometimes fo much as four or five thoufand piafters. He would then fet this man afide, fend for the other party, and examine him refpecting the quarrel, and as to the fum that he would give to gain his caufe.

cause. This done, he would confront the two parties, and decide in favour of him who had given the greater sum, returning the other his money, with some harsh censures of his conduct. At length this practice of the Kya was attended with a very good effect. The merchants found themselves so egregiously fooled and fleeced, that whenever any dispute occurred, they were very glad to settle it amicably among themselves, taking all possible care to prevent its reaching the ears of the Kya.

The present Kya can neither read nor write. He was originally a Georgian slave boy, and brought up in the Haram; but was afterwards raised to an inferior office on the military establishment. Having heard that the Bashaw's daughter wished to marry him, he gained over some of the military and civil officers, and caused the Kya to be murdered one evening as he was returning from the Seraglio. When the Bashaw heard of it he immediately fled for protection into the Haram, where he con-

cealed himself till he was informed that no injury was intended towards him.

There was a considerable commotion in the city for a few days, which, however, was soon settled by orders being issued, that whoever was found in arms in the streets should immediately be put to death. The present Kya was soon after appointed to succeed, and married to the Bashaw's daughter.

When it became necessary to transmit an account of the affair to CONSTANTINOPLE, it was stated, that the late Minister had intended to poison the Bashaw, which was the cause of his being put to death.

I have often seen the present Kya; he does not appear to be thirty years of age, is comely, and has a very graceful figure; but in all probability he will not continue long in office; the lives of princes in this country are extremely precarious, perhaps
more

more so than in any other country in the universe, as no less than seven have been assassinated within the last twelve months.

The last of these was the celebrated Sheik TWYNEY, who was slain, while asleep in his tent, by a slave belonging to the Waaby. This happened only a week ago; the news arrived soon after we came to BAGDAD, and has very much alarmed the government, because much confidence was placed in the superior abilities of the Sheik, and he was fully relied upon to check the progress of the Waaby, who immediately after attacked and defeated the Turkish army, and it was apprehended that he would reach BUSSORA.

Few Europeans transact any business at BAGDAD, or keep any Consuls there. The English have no Consul, but their business is managed by an Armenian named COJA MAKELL, a very respectable man. I had letters to another Armenian merchant named COJA STEPHON BABECK, a very worthy man, who speaks tolerably good

English, and, I believe, is the only resident in the whole city that understands a word of it.

The French at present have here a Consul named ROUSSEAU, who is a relation of the famous writer JEAN JAKUES. They do not, however, carry on much business here, having at present no communication with INDIA. The French, during the present war, have often attempted to send dispatches to INDIA by way of BUSSORA and MUSCAT, but these have always been intercepted by the vigilance of the East-India Company's Resident at BUSSORA. Here are several Frenchmen, who appear to have very little employment; many offered me their services as interpreters and companions to CONSTANTINOPLE; but I refused their proffers, as servants are at all times, and particularly on such a journey, a very great incumbrance; and I would never recommend a person who travels to employ any other than the people of the country he may be in.

The

The following circumstance serves to shew in what respect the English are held here:

Mr. RENAUD, though only a clerk to Mr. MANESTY, about five o'clock one afternoon waited on the Bashaw for a firmaun for me. As he was passing near the Seraglio, he heard some men crying out most lamentably. On enquiry he was informed, that they were to receive two hundred lashes each, a punishment almost equal to death. He desired the people to desist, as he could not bear to hear the men's shrieks, (who by the bye had only received five or six strokes on the soles of their feet) and he would intercede with the Bashaw to mitigate their punishment. On his mentioning this affair to the Bashaw, the latter replied, that for his sake he would not only release them, but would send them to his house, where they should be entirely at his disposal.

As soon as Mr. RENAUD returned, he told us the circumstance. About nine

o'clock the same evening, while we were at supper on the top of the house, the two men, both Arabs, were brought up to us, still uncertain of their destiny. Mr. RENAUD, who speaks the Arabic as fluently as English, told them that he had prevailed with the Bashaw to release them, and they were now at full liberty to go where they pleased. It is impossible to give the reader an adequate idea of the alteration in the poor men's countenances when they heard this. They fell on their knees, and prayed to God and the Prophet to protect their deliverer.

Captain REID being now exceedingly ill, and there not being the least prospect of his recovery, my other companions being also unwell, I began to prepare for my departure; Mr. RENAUD having obtained my passport, or firmaun, under the Bashaw's seal, and having also engaged a Tatar, named SIAD AHMED AGA, to attend me.

The Mookadar (or keeper of the seals) paid us a visit, which was considered as a very great honour. He gave directions to the Tatar in my presence to be attentive to the preservation of my person and property, for that otherwise he should forfeit his head. I had now for the first time an opportunity of observing the ceremony of perfuming, &c. which is usually paid to men of consequence. But the Mookadar was an exception to one very general custom amongst the Turks, as he did not smoke tobacco. On his taking leave he was complimented with an elegant white muslin turban and cumberband, the articles most commonly presented on visits of ceremony,

My Tatar dress being ready, as well as the trappings of my horse, I began to prepare for my departure from BAGDAD. Though I was to travel under the title of Consul, yet it was necessary to wear the Tatar dress, to avoid being insulted by the populace, as is always the case when they discover an European, whom they call Fringui.

Fringui. I had also my head shaved, which I found to be of great service, as it kept me cool, and was more convenient to me in wearing the Tatar dress.

I had entered into a written agreement with my Tatar to give him eight hundred piasters; five hundred to be paid in ready money at BAGDAD before my departure, and the remaining three hundred on my safe arrival at CONSTANTINOPLE; and he engaged not to take any other passengers or merchandize under his care. I took bills from BAGDAD on CONSTANTINOPLE both for my Tatar's three hundred piasters, and the money I had provided for the remainder of my journey. I had also letters of credit on CONSTANTINOPLE from Mr. MANESTY, in case I should have occasion for more money.

My dress consisted of a yellow cap about a foot high, broad at top and almost flat, but becoming gradually narrower till it fitted the head. The lower part of the cap was covered all round with black lambskin.

about four inches deep, the inside lined and quilted, and in the upper part stuffed with wool extremely tight. Being thus calculated to resist any weapon, it is an excellent safeguard to the head. This cap, which being very heavy, feels unpleasantly at first, is called a Culpack, and is only worn by the Tatars. My other articles of apparel were, a brown cloth coat trimmed with a broad black silk binding, wrapping quite round the body with short wide sleeves, and hanging down to the calf of the leg; blue Turkish trowsers trimmed with black silk binding, made very wide, but buttoning tight round the small of the leg; and strong red boots to pull over the trowsers as high as the calf of the leg. The under-dress is a Turkish gown, with long sleeves buttoning close round the wrist; and a shirt without a collar. Turks of all descriptions have the neck entirely bare. The Tatars wear drawers; but I wore a pair of strong leather breeches under my trowsers, which I found of very great service. A cummerband
about

about six yards long was tied very tightly round my waist, and in this I hung a brace of pistols, beside having a large Turkish sabre fastened round my middle with a belt. My European clothes, and whatever I had not immediate occasion for, I had packed up in wax cloth; shirts, stockings, and other necessaries that I should have occasion for on the journey, I had put into a leather-pouch, which was fastened behind the saddle.

THURSDAY, JULY 20.

BEING with my Tatar completely equipped, at five o'clock our horses were brought, and I took leave of my companions. Captain REID was reduced almost to a shadow by the excessive heat of the climate: he had been my companion in many agreeable excursions, and I could scarcely refrain from tears on thus taking leave of him, without the smallest hope of ever seeing him again.

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We rode near a mile through the Bazar, where the merchants, having been apprized when I should go, were waiting with their letters. My Tatar took, I am sure, upwards of two hundred under his charge, this being the only method they have of forwarding letters from one city to another. The merchants and Tatars are, therefore, always upon very good terms; and the office of Tatar, as it is of the greatest trust, is also very profitable; for, beside their other emoluments, they receive considerable presents from the merchants. The letters are not any great inconvenience to them, giving no farther trouble than the mere carriage; for when a Tatar arrives at any considerable city, the merchants immediately go to the Conac for their letters.

Near the western gate of the city a caravan was preparing to set out, several hundred camels being already loaded.

As soon as we were without the gates we set off at a brisk trot, the first part of
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our road being a perfect desert, without the least appearance of vegetation. Having ridden about four miles, we overtook the Tatar's servant with three horses, the one on which he rode had my European clothes, a few necessaries belonging to the Tatar, and a couple of leathern bottles with water. The second horse had only a cloth on him and a bridle; being brought as a reserve, in case of any accident happening to the other horses. The third was laden with two bales of merchandize, a thing expressly against our agreement. I had actually deprived myself of many necessaries that I might not be encumbered; and now finding that my Tatar had deceived me, I thought of returning to BAGDAD, and charging him with his breach of contract. Reproaching him for his conduct, I threatened to return, which alarmed him very much, as such a step would in all probability have ruined him. He solemnly assured me, that he should only take them to MOSUL.

Though

Though much disconcerted by this conduct in my Tatar, yet having already paid him five hundred piasters, I thought it better to proceed, even though I might be detained a few days. The Tatar then promising to make as much haste as possible, we continued our journey, and about nine miles from BAGDAD arrived at the banks of a branch of the TIGRIS. The road was here very rough, and full of stunted shrubs. We soon left the river, and at ten o'clock passed through the town of YANKJA. In the vicinity were several flocks of sheep, watched by shepherds for fear of the jackalls, which were very numerous, and made a most hideous noise. On crossing a plain westward of YANKJA, though between ten and eleven o'clock at night, I felt much inconvenience from a hot and sulphureous wind. I tied a handkerchief over my mouth and nose till it passed us, and my Tatar did the same; but I began to apprehend some danger. As those winds were so strong even in the night, what havock might they not make when the sun was at its height, and the earth

earth at its greatest heat! We continued our journey at the rate of about five miles an hour till eleven o'clock, when we arrived at a town called DOUCOLLA, where we slept in the open air on a quilt and a pillow, with all our clothes on. This place and YANKJA are both small straggling towns, every house being surrounded by a separate mud wall.

FRIDAY, JULY 21.

WE set out this morning at half past four o'clock, and were soon joined by a Turk with a servant and three horses. We passed through several villages, and saw many very fine fields of corn, with great quantities of game. Small cuts that led from a large canal supplied the country with water, and made it very rich; the bridges over these cuts were narrow, and sometimes dangerous for the horses to pass, being only a few sticks laid across, and covered with clay.

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The Turk, to shew his dexterity, went on full gallop over one of those bridges; but his horse fell down, and threw him to a considerable distance.

We continued our route at the rate of four miles an hour till half past six o'clock, when we arrived at a Conac in a small village, called HOPE. Here I breakfasted on eggs and milk, and went to sleep under the shade of some trees near the canal. A very fine stream of clear water ran through the village, in which were large quantities of turtle.

We set out again at half past four o'clock, galloped for some time over an open desert country, and at seven arrived at a small town, surrounded by a mud wall, called MASSABBAS, near the banks of the river DEEAL. In this neighbourhood were the remains of some military entrenchments. We saw also several wild hogs, some of which were very large. They came out to feed at sun-set, and one of extraordinary size drew near us, and

did not appear alarmed. Being very well mounted, I rode full gallop towards him with my sabre in my hand, expecting the creature would have run away; but I was soon deceived; for when I came near him, he put himself in a posture of defence, presenting one side, and inclining his head towards me. I thought it prudent to make a precipitate retreat, and am of opinion that had I attacked him he would have destroyed both myself and horse; for, though I had both a sabre and pistols, I do not imagine that I could have made any impression on such a monstrous animal.

We now rode at the rate of five miles an hour, crossed the river DEEAL over a stone bridge which had two very lofty stone pillars at one end, and at half past nine o'clock arrived at a village called CHU-BUCCAN, where we slept on the bare ground in the open air.

SATURDAY, JULY 22.

AT half past one o'clock, as we were remounting, a large party of Arabs on horseback entered the village. We pursued our journey at the rate of four miles an hour, and at four o'clock again crossed the river DE AAL over a stone bridge at a village called DE AAL-ABBAS. Before day-break we met several parties of Arabs on horseback between CHUBUCCAN and this place; but they did not molest us, and we very seldom stopped to speak to them, only giving the customary salutation as we passed. Here I procured bread and new milk, on which I made a very comfortable breakfast. We mounted again at half past four, and, turning due East, passed through a well cultivated country along the banks of the river DE AAL till six o'clock, when we arrived at ADANAQUE.

This town is situated at the foot of a range of mountains, running East and West.

West, and is well watered by some clear rivulets that run from the mountains. Though here is plenty of stone, yet all the houses are built with clay, and are only one story high. In this place cranes are so abundant, that there is scarcely a house which has not several nests upon it. They are very tame, and the inhabitants never molest them. When any thing disturbs these birds, they make a violent clatter with their long beaks, which is sometimes repeated by the others all over the town; and this noise will sometimes continue for several minutes. It is as loud as a watchman's rattle, and not much unlike it in sound.

From ADANAQUE we set out on fresh horses at half past four o'clock, and ascended the mountains by very narrow passes. Some were cut through the solid rock, giving room only for one horse to pass at a time. On the top of one of these mountains some Arabs were encamped, who exacted a few piasters from my Tatar. There were indeed only half a dozen of them,

them, but they were all well armed; and I observed them getting their matchlocks ready, in case my Tatar had refused to comply with their demands. It requires some time for a man to prepare a matchlock, as he has to strike a light. They are very certain at a steady mark, but otherwise cannot be depended upon. They are chiefly rifle-barrels, and the Arabs are near a quarter of an hour in charging them.

After crossing these mountains we entered an extensive vale, through which a considerable river runs from West to East, called by the natives SHAT-EL-NARIN. There were several Arabs with their flocks on the banks of the river, which we crossed at sun-set. Though a considerable body of water, it is a fine clear stream; but has no bridge over it near this place.

About the banks of this river were several very curious animals, a species of the Jerboa as described by BUFFON. They burrow like rabbits, seem very tame, and run very fast upon their hind legs. The

tail is extremely long in proportion to the body, and has a large white tuft at the end. When sitting on the ground they have much the appearance of rats, but are about twice the size, and of a much lighter colour.

We continued our journey, travelling at the rate of about three miles an hour, and at ten o'clock arrived at a town called KARATAPA. Here my Tatar dismissed the servant he brought from BAGDAD, after giving him a severe horse-whipping. At eleven we set out again on fresh horses, the Turk and his servant still accompanying us.

SUNDAY, JULY 23.

AFTER we left KARATAPA, though the road was often very rugged, and we had sometimes difficulty enough to discern any track, we rode full gallop the greater part of the way. One servant usually leads one or two horses, and those are whipped

whipped by the Tatar or other servants who follow. One of the servants rode up to whip my horse; but, being as well mounted as any of the party, I thought myself able to ride as well as they. It also appeared to me somewhat disgraceful to suffer my horse to be whipped by another person; and on one of the servants striking my beast, I turned round and lashed him. This was a broad hint, to be sure; but it had the desired effect; for they never offered to whip my horse afterwards.

Travelling still on full gallop, we passed more of those encampments where the Arabs are stationed to exact money. As the night was very dark, no moon being visible, and the roads exceedingly rough, there was scarcely a horse among the party but had one or more falls, though those cattle are in general very sure-footed.

We arrived at KUPPREE at half past two o'clock, after crossing the river NARIN over a stone bridge.

At four o'clock we set out again on fresh horses, and passed over a very barren country, not meeting with a single habitation. We continued along the bases of a chain of hills on our right, running East and West, and, though galloping all the way, met with no accident, the road being in general very good. Some of our horses, however, were so much tired, that we were obliged to leave them behind, and mount the led horses which are always kept in reserve. At half past six o'clock we arrived at a town called TUSCOMARTEE, where we rested.

TUSCOMARTEE is very pleasantly situated to the North, at the foot of some hills, and is well watered by several clear streams that flow from them. It commands a very fine prospect over an extensive vale to the South; in which it should seem that in winter there is a great deal of grass, if we might judge from the long brown tufts that still remained. The sun is so very powerful at this season as to destroy all vegetation, except near the rivulets that

that flow from the mountains, where we find numerous flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. These, however, the shepherds are always obliged to drive to the town in the evening, on account of the wild beasts. Though we had a view over this vale for near fifteen or twenty miles, I could not discover a single habitation.

Our fare at the Conacs was tolerable, and the people were very attentive. Indeed, if any of the servants, or even the masters of the Conacs, had neglected their duty, my Tatar would not have failed to give them a good horse-whipping.

Their mutton is very fine, as is their poultry also. Their kids too are very good; but they dress their victuals too much for an Englishman, and eat extravagantly of the fat. Their bread is mostly in thin cakes, and tolerably good. My diet here was chiefly bread and milk.

At four o'clock in the afternoon we left TUSCOMARTEE; and, galloping the whole
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of the way over a barren country, arrived at half past six at a town called TAOK.

TAOK is situated on the North of the same extensive vale, which is about twenty miles over, and has a chain of mountains on each side, running East and West.

We set out from TAOK at half past eight o'clock, and, after riding about four miles, arrived at a town called TEPELLEE in the same vale, watered by several streams flowing from the mountains on the North. We did not stop at TEPELLEE, but continued our journey, riding at about four miles an hour, the roads being very rough, and sometimes intricate.

In the nights, which were now very dark, I could not but think that going full gallop over such rough ground must be attended with some danger; and I therefore checked my Tatar; but while the day-light continued permitted him to go as fast as he chose.

The Tatars are excellent riders, being the greater part of their time on horse-back; they have not, however, the least regard for the beasts, but gallop up hill or down without distinction, and keep on till sometimes the horses fall under the fatigue, unable to go any farther. Nevertheless, these horses are much more hardy and able to endure fatigue, than those of EUROPE. The riders do not seem to be much afraid of a fall, which often happens in galloping down hill; for the cap preserves the head, the cumberband the body, and the strong boots the legs; and the foot is very easily disengaged from the stirrups, which are iron-plates, nearly as long as the foot.

MONDAY, JULY 24.

WE continued riding moderately till two o'clock, when we arrived at KIRCOOK, also situated in the vale before-mentioned,

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We fet out again on fresh horfes at three o'clock, and foon after afcended the chain of mountains on our right. Near the fummit we found feveral Naphtha pits. Thefe are dug out of the rock, are about three feet deep, and into them the Naphtha oozes in a thick liquid, having a very ftrong fmell, nearly refembling that of our coal-tar. Juft above thefe pits were feveral rocks of falt,

We foon after found ourfelves among fome hills fhaped like hay-cocks, which appear to have been fo formed by water, being covered with pebbles and fhells, like thofe ufually feen on the fides of rivers.

Toward the top of this chain of mountains, thefe round hills were very large; but they gradually diminifhed for about two miles, when we defcended into an extenfive vale.

This was to us a great relief; for it was moft unpleafant travelling among thofe hills,

hills, being obliged to make a zigzag course, and finding them in some places so extremely steep, that it was with difficulty our horses could keep their feet, the roundish pebbles giving way under their tread. Some of those hills towards the bottom were not much larger than a good-sized hay-cock; and seen from the vale below they had a very singular appearance, extending from East to West, as far the eye could reach.

This immense range of mountains appears as if it had once formed a barrier. Along the top are the remains of a very strong wall, built with stone and cemented with bitumen.

Soon after we had descended into the vale, we pushed on, in a gallop the greater part of the way, to ALTON KUPPREE, where we arrived at half past seven o'clock.

This is a large and populous town, built on an island formed by the river ALTON, dividing

dividing itself close above the town, and uniting again a little below it, the town nearly covering the whole island. Here is at present a very large garrison of Turkish soldiers; and the town may be deemed impregnable, being difficult of access, and the use of artillery not known in this country.

On entering the town we crossed the river, over which is a stone bridge of one arch, the highest I ever saw. The passage over this bridge is very disagreeable, it being exceedingly steep on both sides, and like a Gothic arch running up to a point in the center. The pavement upon the bridge too is very bad, and my horse had several falls before I got over it. This town is at present the capital of Turkish CURDISTAN, and a Bashaw resides in it.

We set out again at five o'clock in the afternoon, and on leaving the town crossed the other branch of the river, over which is a bridge of two arches. This river contains

tains a large body of water, and falls into the TIGRIS, a few miles below the town.

Soon after we left ALTON KUPPREE, we entered a very fine and well cultivated country, fertile in corn and garden vegetables, the former being then about to be cut. A journey of about six miles brought us again among hills, with very little cultivation; nor did we see much fertility till we arrived near EVRILL, which is thirty-two miles from ALTON KUPPREE.

EVRILL appears to have been formerly a place of some importance, for it exhibits the remains of an old castle on the top of an artificial hill on the West side of the town, and in the vicinity are several Naphtha pits. It is said to be the ancient ARBELA, near which ALEXANDER fought with DARIUS, and the country for some distance round it is an open champaign. We did not change horses here, but continued our journey four miles farther, and at eleven o'clock arrived at a town called ANKAVA.

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For the greatest part of this stage the road was very good.

TUESDAY, JULY 25.

THIS morning we set out from ANKAVA at half past one, and, riding very fast, at five reached a small town called KILLICK, on the banks of the river ZARP. Here was a caravan waiting to cross the river, a passage that must take up a considerable time, being without boats. The horses and camels swim across, three or four at a time, being led by a man who swims buoyed up by a goat's skin inflated with wind, which he keeps under his breast. The merchandize and passengers are carried over on a platform, which is supported by the same kind of skins blown up in proportion to the weight they have to carry. We crossed over in this manner, and were not detained long, the conductors of the caravan giving us, as strangers, the preference.

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The ZARP is a very large and perfectly clear river, flowing from some very high mountains to the northward, capped with snow. The country near the river appears to be very fertile, and produces great quantities of corn, which the inhabitants were employed in cutting. Having crossed the ZARP, we were soon re-mounted, and after riding about six miles through a fertile country, arrived at another considerable river called the HAZIR, which flows from near the same source. This is not so large as the ZARP, but as there were no conveyances, it was with some difficulty we were enabled to ford it, being now unusually high on account of the snow melting from the mountains.

We rode very fast over a fine champaign for about six miles further, and at eight o'clock arrived at a town called KARAKOOSH.

Horses not being ready, we had to wait an hour, though I was very anxious to get to MOSUL this morning, as I thought it

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would

would gain me a day. Horses were brought a little after nine o'clock; but the sun was now become excessively hot, the inhabitants began to retire into the shade, and some of them down into deep vaults. This part of the country is reckoned the most dangerous at this season, on account of the Samiel winds, which are now at their greatest strength, and more people are destroyed by them than in any other way. Both my Tatar and myself being exceedingly well mounted, we set out at full speed, and continued that pace most part of the way, which is near twenty miles; for the Samiel winds were beginning to rise before we could reach MOSUL, and they would have gained strength so fast, that I have no doubt if we had been an hour later, exposed as we were, the whole party, men and horses, would have been laid dead on the ground. We reached MOSUL at a quarter before eleven o'clock, after crossing the TIGRIS over a bridge of boats. From my long exposure to the sun, the skin had come off both my hands and face. Immediately

on my arrival I went to bathe in the hummums, which I found very refreshing.

MOSUL, which is said by some of the inhabitants to be the ancient NINEVEH, is pleasantly situated on a declivity upon the right banks of the TIGRIS. What it may formerly have been I cannot say, but it is now a very large town, and contains many handsome buildings, exclusive of the hummums, mosques, and minarets, which are all built of hewn stone.

Here is not so much reserve of manners as in the cities to the eastward, women of all descriptions being nearly as much exposed as in EUROPE. The town is very populous, and comprises men of various religions; but the great bulk of the inhabitants are Kurds, or, as the Arabs call them, Kurks.

I took a guide and went over most part of the town. The Bazar is large and well supplied; and most of the articles, except

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clothing,

clothing, are very moderate. The people appeared much more industrious than any I had seen before since I left India. Various manufactories are carried on, and in some they excel the Europeans. Their saddles and trappings for horses, in particular, are very elegant. They also make carpets of silk, with flowers worked in them, which seem to vie with the best of our manufactures. They are also very dexterous in making edgings and trimmings of various kinds, both for men and women. Their manufactories in copper and iron too are very numerous; and a great variety of articles made of those metals are sent down the *TIGRIS* as low as *BUSSORA*, exclusive of the immense quantity of metal sent down unmanufactured; for they get the ore in abundance from the mountains to the northward.

The town of *MOSUL* is surrounded by a strong lofty wall built with hewn stone. The space within the wall is not entirely occupied by houses, many places being covered

covered with ruins, which proves that it has once been much more populous than at present.

Directly opposite the Conac where I stopped was the Court of Justice. The trials here are very short; for in less than five minutes after the prisoner is taken before the court, if he be found guilty, he is conveyed to receive his punishment. The Court of Justice is opened at sun-rise; but it does not continue above two hours, for, as the reader will perceive, they have a method of dispatching business very quickly.

I met here a Venetian Padre named MONEUR, with whom I conversed in Latin, which he spoke very fluently. He had recently received letters from CONSTANTINOPLE, giving an account of the French having invaded his country, at which he seemed much concerned. He was a very intelligent pleasant man, and much more learned than many of the fraternity. He had his mission from the Pope, had

been at MOSUL two years and eight months, and intended going to INDIA very soon. There was not a person in the whole town that understood either French or English.

I here found that I could not proceed by the usual route, on account of the then turbulent state of the country. The inhabitants of JESSEERA were in open rebellion against the Turkish government, had killed the Bashaw, and committed many other excesses. I was also told, that it was very dangerous to go even a few miles from MOSUL without a strong guard. In consequence of this information, my Tatar waited on the Bashaw with the firmaun, who immediately ordered a guard of an officer and sixteen horsemen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26.

AT four o'clock in the afternoon we were informed that our guards and servants were ready. We mounted, and found

found them waiting for us at the western gate.

I had now the mortification to find my Tatar again breaking his promise by taking the merchandize further. Though I had not hitherto been much detained by it, I thought that it might be a temptation to the numerous hordes of banditti that infest this country; but as I had no alternative, I was forced to submit to this gross imposition. The horses belonging to the whole party were exceedingly good, and this was perfectly necessary, as we had to travel upwards of a hundred and fifty miles before we could obtain fresh ones. The officer's horse was a beautiful white Arabian, exceedingly swift.

Soon after we had left the town, many of the horsemen, to give their beasts a breathing, exercised with their spears, which to me was one of the finest sights I had ever beheld. The officer wore a scarlet gown and cameline; his cap was near two feet high, and shaped like the crown of a

hat; his beard was long and black; and he was about thirty years of age. The soldiers were dressed in white, with scarlet caps and turbans, and only wore mustaches.

The unsettled state of the country compelled us to travel up the right banks of the *TIGRIS*. We rode moderately at about four miles an hour, and at seven o'clock arrived at a small village on the banks of the river, where we refreshed. The country through which we had passed from *MOSUL* to this village is very well cultivated, producing great quantities of corn; and nearly the whole of the way we saw ruins on both sides of the river, some at a considerable distance, and others close on the banks. This village is situated on the top of an almost perpendicular cliff, about a hundred and fifty yards above the river.

We set out again at eight o'clock, our guard now amounting to twenty horsemen. The road soon became very hilly and rugged; but after we had got through some

some very steep and narrow passes, where only one horse could go at a time, we again came to the banks of the TIGRIS. The night was dark, and the road so very bad, that it was with much difficulty we could make any progress. We now turned to the southward, leaving the TIGRIS on our right, and joined a large caravan going to DIARBEKIR. It consisted of about two thousand camels, three thousand asses and mules, and one thousand horses; the whole being conducted by an Arab Sheik, with a considerable number of guards.

THURSDAY, JULY 27.

Soon after we had come up with the caravan, which was about one o'clock in the morning, several Tatars going to DIARBEKIR joined our party; for, though equipped to travel much faster than a caravan, they were afraid to push forward. There are no fixed residences in this country, and it is at present much infested by wandering hordes of banditti. When the
Tatars

Tatars had joined our party it amounted to forty horse. We now rode faster than the caravan, which formed a continued line of full six miles, and came up with the head of it at five o'clock. We then stopped by the side of a small rivulet on an extensive plain. Here also the caravan stopped, unloading their beasts of burden, and pitching their tents as they came up.

My Tatar not having provided proper accommodations, I was obliged to lie down on the bare earth with all my clothes on. I slept, however, till seven o'clock, when the sun became very hot, I then went into the Arab Sheik's tent, and breakfasted with him.

Near this rivulet is a lofty mound of earth, which commands an extensive prospect over the plain. On the top of this mound the Sheik kept a watch the whole day, to prevent a surprize. Of those lofty mounds of earth there are many in this country, and they are no doubt artificial, as they always stand singly on extensive plains.

plains. They must, however, have cost much labour, some of them being extremely large.

I here caught some locusts of an extraordinary size, and very thick in proportion to their length. They have no wings, move slowly, and are easily taken. I soon found it necessary to be careful that they did not bite me, for I am persuaded that they could easily have bitten my finger to the bone. I tried one with a twig about as thick as a quill, which it bit through instantly. I then dissected one, and on examining one of its grinders found it nearly as large as a human tooth, and so hard, that I was not able to make any impression on it with my penknife. The grinders were nearly the colour of mahogany.

Finding that we were not molested by flies or other insects, and ascribing this circumstance to the excessive heat of the sun at this season, I made an experiment on one of these large locusts, by exposing it to the sun, which actually killed it in
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less than an hour. I also found that flies, when exposed in the middle of the day, fell down almost instantly; and that all kinds of insects must either get into some shade, or inevitably perish.

The Sheik was under some apprehensions that he should be attacked, and took, of course, every necessary precaution. He kept about fifty horsemen ready to mount in a moment, and sent others eight or ten miles round as a patrol. It was near this place that the Tatar whom I have mentioned before * was murdered, and this circumstance was still fresh in the minds of the people. It must, however, have required a very considerable force to have cut off this caravan, there being nearly as many men as beasts of burden, and every one armed with some sort of weapon. The greatest part had long spears, and though these might not appear very formidable against regular European troops, they are perfectly well adapted to the

* Page 35.

present mode of fighting in this country. Some of the people had bows and arrows, and, indeed, one of the Tatars was armed with them. This man was very dexterous in shooting; when on horseback, he carried his bow and quiver slung over his shoulder, and appeared capable of doing more execution than the spear-men.

The ground whereon we were encamped was covered with long dried grass and tobacco leaves, both quite brown and withered; for no green thing appears here, except in the immediate vicinity of water.

Some of the people belonging to the caravan set the grass on fire to leeward of the encampment, which spread very rapidly, and quickly consumed its fuel.

At half past five o'clock we set out with this immense caravan, which required two hours to be put in motion; and our MOSUL guard now returned.

FRIDAY, JULY 28.

WE continued in company with the caravan till three o'clock this morning, travelling at the rate of only three miles an hour. The foremost persons of the caravan then began to pitch their tents by the side of a rivulet.

Being joined by the DIARBEEKIR Tatars and five Arabs, which made our party amount to twenty horse, we now left the caravan, and pushed forward, at the rate of six miles an hour, over an open desert country, in which not a habitation nor any species of cultivation were to be seen.

At sun-rise we came to some rivulets, whose banks were covered with grass and rushes, growing very thick and long. Among these were several wild hogs, which rushed out to the neighbouring plain as we approached. I saw one drove of about twenty running towards a rivulet,

rivulet, as if they intended to cross us; and all the noise the whole party could make was not sufficient to turn them. Being exceedingly well mounted, I pursued them at full speed, having with me two Arabs armed with their long spears. We overtook them at the rivulet, when the whole herd rushed through, and ran across the plain, except one, which attempted to hide himself among the rushes. The Arabs with their spears soon found him out. He attempted to run across the plain after the others, but we pursued closely, and turned him. I soon found that the Arabs were more dextrous than myself, for they had speared him before I was able to get a cut at him with my sabre. After he had been wounded two or three times, he became exceedingly furious, and ran at our horses, while we endeavoured to keep him off with our weapons. The Arabs had the advantage with their long spears, as I could not cut him with my sabre till I was very near him. Through my inattention and want of experience, he at one time actually touched my horse with his tusks, and I

was

was very near being dismounted. Such an accident might have proved fatal, as the hog would soon have destroyed me while on the ground. He also touched one of the Arabs horses, but did not greatly injure either, the horses being very quick in their motions. He foamed at the mouth, and snatched at the spears, or any thing that came near him. While he had strength we were all afraid to close upon him, and only wounded him as he ran at us. He soon, however, became weak through loss of blood, and we then closed upon him, spearing and cutting till at last he fell. I did not observe that he made the least noise either during the chase or while we were killing him. He was rather under the middling size, and his colour was a deep red.

The rest of the party did not interfere, but remained quiet spectators, and were highly entertained. To me it was one of the greatest treats that could possibly have happened, as I had never witnessed any thing of the kind before. I had frequently
seen

seen wild hogs, and had wished much to attack them, but was afraid to do it alone, and am now fully convinced how imprudent it would have been. They defend themselves much longer than I could have imagined, and when irritated no animal can be more furious. We left the hog dead upon the ground, and soon afterwards saw a very large brown wolf.

We again continued our route at the rate of six miles an hour, till half past eight o'clock, when we arrived at one of those artificial hills situated on an extensive plain by a pleasant rivulet of clear water. There is no fixed residence to be seen near this place, and the tents are only temporary, to accommodate travellers who are obliged to pass through this unfrequented route on account of the present disturbed state of the country.

We slept in a tent pitched by the side of the rivulet, and I was fortunate in getting a little bread and milk. I bathed in the rivulet, and found it very refreshing.

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I also felt much ease and comfort from having my head shaved, and always washed my head in cold water whenever I had an opportunity.

At five o'clock in the afternoon we again mounted our horses; and after travelling ten miles nearly due West, over an open country which appears to have been once inhabited and cultivated, though now entirely forsaken, we came to some fine streams of water, on the banks of one of which are the ruins of a city, which appears to have been once very extensive, and nearly in the shape of a half moon. Here were many hewn stones of very large dimensions; and among the ruins I saw a stone coffin, with the lower part entire, but could not discover any inscription either on the stones or on the coffin. About this unfrequented place no living creatures are to be seen, except wild hogs, a few wolves, and some eagles, the latter very tame. The streams, however, abounded with fish.

We continued our route nearly due West till nine o'clock, when, having crossed a rivulet, we turned to the northward. One of our party about this time lost his way, but on his firing a pistol, we were enabled to find him. The night being very dark, and there being no road or path to follow, it was sometimes with the utmost difficulty that we could proceed.

At midnight we reached a small place called THIES, which contained merely a few houses built on one of those artificial hills of which I have before made mention. We rested here half an hour; for I was now almost exhausted with hunger and fatigue.

SATURDAY, JULY 29.

WE set out again from THIES at half past twelve o'clock, without having been able to procure any refreshment. Soon after our quitting the place we lost our way, it being extremely dark, and got

into some swampy ground, from which it was near an hour before we could extricate ourselves. We then crossed several streams that flow from a chain of mountains to the northward, and rode briskly till three o'clock, when we arrived at NISSIBIN.

I congratulated myself on again entering an inhabited country, with marks of cultivation, which I had not seen since I quitted the neighbourhood of MOSUL.

Our Arab guides now left us; but we were still fifteen in number, and for a party so large we were not able to procure a sufficient number of horses before seven o'clock.

NISSIBIN is at present a small and miserable place; but the many circumjacent ruins imply that it has once been of more consequence.

We had now got into the common road; but most of the party being badly mounted, we were obliged to travel slowly. The
sun

fun becoming exceedingly hot, I wished much to get to MARDIN as soon as possible.

About six miles westward from NISSIBIN are some magnificent ruins of an ancient palace, which appears to have been very lofty, some parts of the building being still of a great height. I had the curiosity to ride into the inner square, where I found some Curds drawing water from a well in the centre about forty yards deep. The water was very cold and exceedingly clear. The walls of the building are of astonishing thickness; a stone staircase remains almost entire; and some parts of the walls, which have been undermined, are so strongly cemented, that in their fall they still adhere together.

We now passed through a finely cultivated country, a chain of lofty mountains on our right ranging East and West, having their sides covered with fir-trees.

About twelve miles westward of the first ruins is another heap, among which a very lofty arch remains entire. Near these ruins, and a little out of the road towards the mountains, were some young Curd women milking their goats. I took my Tatar with me, and procured some milk. The features of these women were much handsomer than those of the Arabs, and they are nearly as fair as the women in ENGLAND.

Being now again exposed in the middle of the day, I suffered much from the excessive heat of the sun. The hot winds too began to collect; but before they had acquired strength enough to be dangerous, we passed the village called ARIN, and ascended the side of the mountain towards MARDIN, when I happily found myself out of their reach, as they never prevail in elevated situations; and I have frequently observed, that whenever they shape their course towards a mountain, they soon subside. From near the top of these

these mountains, I had an opportunity of observing the progress of the hot winds, which was nearly similar to what I had observed of them when on the banks of the **TIGRIS**, with this difference only, that this being a mountainous situation, and the other quite level, they here lost their force by approaching the mountains, and in the other case by crossing the river.

Though there is much cultivation and some fine pasture in the vale below, the people are obliged to drive their flocks towards the mountains, whenever and so long as those winds prevail.

The ascent was by a bad road, and our progress so very slow, that it was three o'clock in the afternoon before we arrived at **MARDIN**, and our horses were completely tired.

MARDIN, situated at the top of a very lofty and rugged mountain, is a city of considerable size, and very populous. The greater part of the inhabitants are Arme-

nians, who are very industrious, and carry on several manufactories. The city is surrounded by a strong and lofty wall built with hewn stone; and on the summit of the mountain is a strong fort, on which a few cannon are mounted.

The city is built on the south side of the mountain, at a part where it is extremely steep. The houses are much better built than any that I had seen since I left INDIA. The streets run East and West, and have steps communicating from one to another. The bases of the houses in the upper street are even with the tops of the houses in the street below. The city is very well supplied with water, and of good quality.

The inhabitants, who seem to be a hospitable well-disposed people, enjoy a pure air, have as fair complexions as the people in ENGLAND, and in general appear ruddy and healthy. Many of the women are very beautiful, and expose their persons nearly as much as the ladies in EUROPE.

Provisions, and vegetables in particular, are plentiful, good, and cheap; they have also most kinds of fruits, and of the finest quality, the climate being exceedingly hot in the valleys, and temperate on the mountains.

I found here a missionary from ROME, with whom I conversed in Latin. He was an intelligent pleasant man, and informed me of many occurrences in EUROPE, of which I had not before heard. The missionaries correspond with each other all over the Empire, and are speedily acquainted with every material transaction both here and in EUROPE.

The Turks are of a disposition precisely the reverse, and appear perfectly indifferent to every thing that does not immediately concern them.

This city, by its situation, may be said to be impregnable; and some historians affirm, that TAMERLANE laid siege to it for

for three years, without being able to reduce it.

Finding that it would be dangerous travelling to DIARBEEKIR without protection, my Tatar waited on the Bashaw with the firmaun, who immediately gave orders for a guard.

SUNDAY, JULY 30.

WE left MARDIN this morning at eight o'clock, accompanied by one of the DIARBEEKIR Tatars and his attendants, and descended the north side of the mountain on which the city is built; of which, though very steep and rocky, every little patch of ground capable of cultivation bore proofs of the industry of the Armenians, in abundance of grapes, apples, pears, plums of various sorts, cucumbers, melons, and almost all kinds of European fruits and vegetables.

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After we had crossed this lofty chain of mountains, we reached an extensive range of round hills, the bottoms of which were cultivated wherever there was water. The Curd women here labour in the fields as well as the men, and resemble much the peasantry of ENGLAND. Among these hills we continued travelling for near twenty miles, when they gradually diminished as we descended, and cultivation re-appeared. Some people were sowing, and others reaping. They have cattle and horses in abundance, very few sheep, but a great number of goats, which seem better adapted to the situation. The hills in general were thickly planted with trees, and we did not get clear of them till half past two o'clock, when we arrived at the place where we were to receive our guard for DIARBEEKIR.

We found here a great number of small sheds made of the branches of trees, having their door-ways toward the North. The people live in these in preference to houses at this season of the year, and they were very

very full of inhabitants, who appeared to be all diligently employed.

The women dress differently from both the Arabs and Turks. They wear a cap like that of a Hussar, seven or eight inches deep, covered with a white cloth, and bound with a shawl or handkerchief round the forehead. Part of the white cloth protects the neck from the sun; but the face below the forehead is entirely exposed. Over their under dress, they wear a loose gown with short wide sleeves, tied round the waist by a sash. They wear no stockings, but have yellow Turkish slippers.

They spin with a rock and spindle, and I have seen some of them weaving. I believe them to be as happy people as exist in the world, and, indeed, content appears in every countenance.

We dined in one of these houses, or rather sheds, with some Turkish officers, among whom was the commandant of a party

a party stationed here, to whom my Tatar presented the Bashaw's order for a guard. Though I have called it dining, the fact is, that I could not eat their victuals, every dish being rendered so very fat and greasy. Fortunately, however, I prevailed on one of the women to go and milk a goat for me, and made a comfortable meal of milk and bread.

It was eight o'clock in the evening before we set out, being obliged to continue on our MARDIN horses. After we had passed over this uniform range of hills, we had still to travel through some steep passes, among which, about ten o'clock, it being then very dark, a laughable circumstance occurred. The commander of our guard, who appeared to be a man of courage, saw a beast moving at a little distance. As we were far from any habitation, the whole party thought that it was a lion, and the size and colour of the animal favoured the deception. The officer mustered his troops, most of them being exceedingly well mounted, and armed with
long

long spears, and rode toward the supposed lion in a body; nor was it till they were almost near enough to spear him, that they were undeceived, by discovering that it was a hog.

On enquiry I found that among these hills lions are very numerous, and destroy many of the flocks belonging to the industrious inhabitants.

At eleven o'clock we forded a river, on whose banks were a great many tents belonging to numerous gangs of banditti who infest this part of the country. As soon as we had passed them, our guard, expecting that they would follow us, halted for a quarter of an hour, while we continued our route. The robbers, having observed the troops, did not make any attempt, and our guards soon overtook us. At twelve o'clock we forded the river **TIGRIS**.

At **MARDIN**, and to the southward of that extensive range of lofty mountains, the Arabic is the prevailing language. To the

the northward, the Turkish language is more common.

MONDAY, JULY 31.

AFTER we had forded the **TIGRIS**, which was here very broad, we entered a fine level well-cultivated country; and travelling at the rate of four miles an hour, at half past four o'clock we again forded the **TIGRIS** at **DIARBEKIR**. We had to wait till sun-rise, however, before the gates could be opened.

DIARBEKIR is a large populous city, and the capital of an extensive province of the same name. It is pleasantly situated on an eminence upon the western banks of the **TIGRIS**, and surrounded by a strong lofty wall built with hewn stone. On the land-side it has once been protected by three walls and two ditches, part of which are still to be seen. Toward the river, which runs nearly half round the city, nature has strongly fortified it, by a solid

solid rock about twenty feet perpendicular. On the walls are several towers, in which a guard is constantly kept.

They have also some cannon here, chiefly brass field pieces of a small calibre, and a few brass mortars; but very few of either are serviceable.

The city commands an extensive and delightful prospect over a fertile country, and the winding streams of the TIGRIS add much to the beauty of the scene. It is well watered by means of a canal from the TIGRIS, which is cut several miles above, and in some places through very rugged ground. A branch of this canal runs on the outside of the walls, on the western side of the city, and soon after falls into the river. On this branch are several corn mills; and it being very steep where those mills are built, the water falls upon the wheel, and by this means a small body of water acquires great power. They are something like our over-shot mills in ENGLAND.

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I took a guide and went through the greater part of the city. The houses are built with hewn stone, and the streets all paved. Many of the public edifices are very elegant. The Armenian cathedral is a large and handsome structure, about the length of Westminster-hall, but not so wide. The roof is supported by two rows of pillars, and the whole of the floor is covered with carpets, for even the Turks on entering it pull off their shoes. The Armenian mode of worship is nearly similar to that of the Roman Catholics; they have their crucifixes and burning lamps. In the court before the cathedral is a very handsome fountain, which throws its water to a considerable height.

I visited the manufactories also, of which there are great numbers. They manufacture copper, iron, wool, cotton, silk, and several other staples. Some of their wool is very fine, and the weavers are numerous. People of the same trade usually live together; thus, one street contains nothing but weavers; another street, shoe-makers;

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another,

another, smiths, &c. Their leather is very good, and they work it exceedingly well. I had cafes made for my pistols, which were executed very neatly. Here are a great many dyers, and the waters of the TIGRIS are said to be peculiarly adapted to the purposes of that trade.

In some branches, these people are equal, if not superior, to many Europeans; but the weavers are very inferior to the English; and the cloth they make, whether of woollen, cotton, or silk, is always very narrow. They entertain a very high opinion of the British manufactures, and the very name of an Englishman is sufficient to gain the greatest respect.

The superfine broad cloth worn by the principal people is of English manufacture, as are also their watches, of which latter I saw a great many with Arabic characters, made by "Brookbank, of Cornhill, London," and some by "Prior, in London."

People

People of all descriptions seem here to enjoy much liberty. The various sects of Christians have their chapels and churches, and each follows his own mode of worship without molestation.

My Tatar informed me, that there was a Padre here who could speak English; but, as he was lame, if I wished to see him I must go to his house. I had some doubts at first whether the Tatar was in jest or earnest, as he often spoke ironically; I therefore made him go with me. I found the Padre to be a Capuchin Friar, with his brown-hooded cloak on. He was exceedingly ignorant, did not know a word of English, and understood but little Latin. He was very corpulent, had got the gout, and appeared as if he had been long accustomed to drink something stronger than water. He was a father confessor, and had a round screen of black gauze that he could let down by a line from the ceiling, and which inclosed the fair penitents when they came to receive absolution; but finding him so extremely

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ignorant,

ignorant, and such a disgusting figure, I made a very short stay.

I conceived this to be a mere device of my Tatar, to shew what a mean opinion he entertained of the religion of the Franks, or, as they are commonly called, Fringuis (the Arabs and Turks calling EUROPE Fringuistan). He certainly thought that I had been of the same persuasion, but finding me as little satisfied with my visit as himself, and being informed by me that the English had no more crucifixes and images in their mosques than the Turks, he was inclined to entertain a more favourable opinion of the English; and I do not remember his ever calling me Fringui afterwards.

I do not, indeed, wonder that the Turks should entertain such a prejudice against the Christian religion; for all the Christian countries bordering upon the Turkish empire (and even the Greeks and Armenians among the Turks) have their crucifixes and images, which represent a
kind

kind of idol worship, to which all Mussulmen have a particular aversion; and that alone is sufficient to prevent them from making any inquiries into the real merits of Christianity.

I went a little above the city to bathe in the **TIGRIS**, the hummums being too relaxing. I had bathed in the hummums both at **BAGDAD** and **MOSUL**, which answers very well for cleansing the skin, but I found much more benefit from bathing in cold water. I took with me a guide, and a servant carrying fruit and refreshments.

The city has two gates to the westward, which are the only ones ever opened. There is one to the eastward, but it is always kept shut, and we were in consequence obliged to go round greater part of the city, which covers about a square mile, all the walls, except to the southward, being quite straight, and about a mile long. Above the walls, on the east side of the city, is a path cut through the

solid rock, and another leading across the hill towards the river. On the side of this path are many holes cut out of the rock, large enough to hold half a dozen people, and into many of these the water falls from the rock perpendicularly. The lofty trees near the rock forming an agreeable shade, and making it a pleasant cool retreat, we saw, as we passed along this path, many Armenian women and children bathing. I was a little surprised to see them as fair as any in ENGLAND; but they walk much better than the women in EUROPE, their loose dress allowing free action to the body, and they have beside a peculiar grace in every motion, to which Europeans are entire strangers.

Though DIARBEEKIR is a populous city, provisions plentiful, good, and cheap, every inhabitant enjoying full liberty, and that it is in many other respects a desirable place to live in, yet there is one thing which is both disagreeable and dangerous, and reflects great disgrace on its government: the circumjacent country, to
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a considerable extent, is so much infested with banditti, that no one can travel to or from the city without a strong military guard.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1.

My Tatar having procured from the Bashaw an order for a guard, we set out at half past four o'clock in the afternoon, without any other than our own servants. A Tatar wished to accompany us, but I was absolute in refusing him, having before been detained for want of horses when our party was numerous.

We rode about five miles over a very rich country, the whole of which was well cultivated. At half past five we arrived at the barracks where we were to receive our guard. As they were not ready, it was half past seven before we set forward. The guard consisted of an officer and fifteen men, all well mounted and armed,

some with spears, and others with fire arms. For a few miles we had a tolerably good road, and a fine open country, with a good deal of cultivation; but at ten o'clock we entered a wild desert country, the ground of which for many miles was covered with large stones, which made it very disagreeable travelling. At eleven we crossed the bed of a river, now dry, in which a large gang of banditti had pitched their tents. Our guard continued with us till midnight; but by that time we had got into a very good road, the guard, therefore, left us and returned. We now galloped for two hours as fast as the horses could be made to go.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2.

TURNING to the right, and passing over some rocky ground and a few hills, we ascended the mountain on which ARGEENAH is built, and arrived at the Conac at five o'clock in the morning.

ARGEENAH

ARGEENAH is a large and populous town built in a most extraordinary situation. The mountain on which it is founded, is much steeper than that of MARDIN, and cannot be ascended in front. There is, therefore, a road up each side of the mountain; and across the front of it are little narrow tracks, so very steep that a false step would be inevitable destruction both to horse and rider. What could induce the building of a town in such a situation it is difficult to conjecture. There is an extensive plain below, with plenty of water; yet this is left wholly without cultivation, except a little below the ARGEENAH mountain.

The mountain appears at a distance like a barren rock, incapable of producing any vegetation; and, indeed, there is no spontaneous product; but the industry of the inhabitants amply repairs the deficiency. In many places they have gardens, producing various kinds of fruits and vegetables, and in others they even carry mould
to

to make little artificial gardens. They have plenty of good water, and the mountain abounds in iron ore, in the extracting of which a great many people are employed.

We only rested at ARGEENAH two hours, setting out again at seven o'clock on fresh horses.

Soon after our departure we found ourselves entered on a complex chain of mountains, so replete with dangerous narrow passes that we were above six hours before we got over them.

A considerable branch of the **TIGRIS** runs at the foot of these mountains, making a winding course among them. Over this there has formerly been a very fine bridge of three arches, but only one now remains entire. This bridge appears, by the remnant of it, to have been the handsomest piece of architecture that I had seen since I entered the Turkish dominions.

We crossed a mountain above MEDAN, which is commonly called ARGEENAH MEDAN, leaving the town on our right. It is a considerable smelting-place, and had between twenty and thirty smelting-houses at work. They collect from the surrounding mountains iron, copper, and silver ore, and some gold. These they do not dig out of mines, as is the case in most countries, but collect it from the surface.

We passed several men and boys employed in breaking pieces off the rocks; but the mountains are so steep, that they are obliged to carry the ore on the backs of asses and mules. There is scarcely any vegetation. The poor labouring people are very numerous, and go almost naked.

The officer who superintends the smelting houses is usually esteemed the most confidential servant in the Turkish government, and is perfectly independent of the Bashaw of DIARBEEKIR, though MEDAN is within his Pachalic.

We

We now passed many dreadful precipices, the paths being frequently not more than a foot broad, and saw several skeletons of horses that had fallen down those dangerous places. Having at length travelled beyond these mountains, we came into a very pleasant valley, through which the *TIGRIS* runs. Here were great numbers of fresh water turtle, some of them rather large. I should imagine that they would be good eating, but on enquiry I found that the natives never killed them.

This is the most western branch of the *TIGRIS*, which rises among some hills at the head of this valley, and here several streams uniting form a tolerably large river.

Having crossed the valley, we turned to the right over some rugged hills, and came to the side of a considerable salt-water lake, fifteen miles long and about four broad. Though several small rivulets run into this lake, none run out of it. Towards the west end of it is a small island called *GURGEIK*, from which the lake takes its name.

name. The island is entirely covered with houses; and here are great numbers of boats, the inhabitants receiving water and every necessary from the shore.

We passed the west end of the lake at sun-set; but some of our horses were so much wearied, that it was with difficulty we could proceed; two of them, indeed, laid down, and we were obliged to leave them.

Soon after quitting the lake we got again among some lofty mountains, and at half past twelve o'clock at night arrived at a large town called GERMILLY. Of the last thirty-two hours I was twenty-eight on horseback, and out of the last forty-two hours had only had one of sleep. My Tatar had in this respect greatly the advantage; for I have often seen him sleep on horseback when the road was good and we were travelling at a slow pace.

On our arrival at the Conac, we received every attention that our situation required; but

but as our beds were on the top of the Conac in the open air, we could not sleep after sun-rise.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5.

Not having been able to procure fresh horses here, we set out again at eleven o'clock on those which we brought from ARGEENAH. After riding about eight miles over a very beautiful and well cultivated country, we reached another considerable town called KESSIREEK at one o'clock.

Here too we were unsuccessful in getting horses, and we found a BAGDAD Tatar, named MALA BEKIR, waiting for the same accommodation. He was returning from CONSTANTINOPLE to BAGDAD, with six loads, being twelve bales of broad cloth, under his charge. For his merchandize and attendants he required fifteen horses. I found, on enquiry, that the usual allowance for a horse-load of merchandize
from

from CONSTANTINOPLE to BAGDAD is five hundred piaftres.

We remained here all day under some trees by the fide of a pleasant fream, and at night fleep upon the ground in the open air.

I had brought some Hollands gin with me from BAGDAD; but not being much accuftomed to drink fpirits, I gave the whole of it to MALA BEKIR, who foon got drunk with it, together with a few more Tatars to whom he had given fome. The Turks who drink fpirits are certainly very beaftly in their manner of ufing them; for be the liquor ever fo ftrong, they will not touch it unlefs they have above half a pint for a draught.

The Armenians in this country make a fpirit from the grape which they call Rackee, and this they fell privately to the Turks. A young man, named MUSTAPHA, whom my Tatar brought from MOSUL, and intended to take to CONSTANTINOPLE,

TINOPLE, procured some Rackee, with which he got drunk, and behaved very ill. MUSTAPHA was in the character of an upper servant. His business was to look after the guides, and to drive the horses as an assistant to my Tatar, an office for which he was intended in due time. He was the son of the Master of the Conac at MOSUL, and was taken into our service by my permission, on which account I had received many civilities from his father, who was particularly attentive to shew me every thing worth seeing in MOSUL.

This misconduct of MUSTAPHA induced my Tatar to beat him the following morning. Soon after he had been corrected, however, having a pair of pistols of his own, he attempted to shoot the Tatar, but was prevented by some of MALA BEKIR's attendants. The pistols were now taken from him and broken to pieces; he was beaten again, and seemed to be very penitent and submissive. This affair had passed over some time; but one day, hav-

ing a large creese hidden under his cloak, he got near my Tatar, and when he thought he had a favourable opportunity attempted to cut his head off, which he certainly would have done had he not been prevented by another Tatar who was present, and seized his arm as he was making the stroke. The two Tatars now seized him, took the creese from him, and thrashed him most soundly. They did not, however, wish to take his life, though he well deserved it; thus discovering much more forbearance than ever I expected to have witnessed among the Turks. MUSTAPHA at last extricated himself and attempted to run away; but when he had got a few yards my Tatar threw the creese at him, which turning round as it flew, the point of it stuck in the lower part of MUSTAPHA's back. He did not die while we were here; but there was not the least probability of his surviving it, there being no medical assistance to be had. The creese is a weapon which the Turks wear in their cumberband, and the blade of which is usually from two and a half to

three feet long. They are chiefly worn by the poorer class; for those who can afford to purchase more costly articles wear a dagger and a brace of pistols. The handle of the dagger is either ivory or silver, and the pistol-stocks are mostly covered with silver.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4.

WE were still detained for want of horses, there being none here at present in a condition to proceed.

MALA BEKIR set out at noon with mules to carry his merchandize. We remained, and received a promise of having as many horses as we chose in the evening.

Several people belonging to the town now brought their spinning machines, and began spinning under the shade of the trees that were near us. Observing that they made considerable progress with a very simple machine, I employed my leisure in taking a SKETCH of it.

Description

*Description of a Spinning Machine, used at
KESSEREK and GERMILLY, in ARME-
NIA, by which one man spins two threads,
twists the two threads he has spun before,
and turns the wheel at the same time.*

- a* The spinner.
- b* The wheel.
- c* The three spindles.
- d* The two threads spinning.
- e* The strong line with which he turns the wheel fixed to his cumberband, and running in a block fastened to a post behind him.
- f* His former threads with a plummet thrown over a forked stick behind him.
- g* Two forked sticks over which he throws his threads while spinning.
- h* Another forked stick for his former threads.
- i* The clue on which he winds his work when finished, fastened by a hook to his belt or cumberband.

N. B. The threads may be as long as the spinner chooses, if the ground be suitable. The line which turns the wheel must be twice the length of the ground. He joins his two threads at the end and hooks them to the plummet, then joins his former work, and winds it on his clue as he returns to the wheel; then puts the two threads on to the third spindle and begins again.

A Turk of some consequence in the town invited me and my Tatar to sup with him, and treated us very handsomely. We had pillaw, curry, and several other good dishes, and our host behaved in the most friendly manner. While we were at supper, word was brought that our horses were ready.

At half past eight o'clock, we set out from KESSEREEK, and for the first four hours rode through a very populous and well cultivated country, at the rate of about five miles an hour.

I had often had occasion to find fault with my horses, the Tatar generally taking the best to himself. For this time, however, a very beautiful and high-spirited white Arabian had fallen to my share. This I ascribed to the very good humour I had put my Tatar in by praising him for his conduct in the late skirmish with MUSTAPHA; for I always observed, that he was excessively fond of flattery; and to tell him that he was a man of courage,

was

was enough to sweeten him for some hours. Beside which, I found it very necessary to take his part; for, had any thing happened to him, I should have been in a very awkward situation, though I had now acquired a little of the language.

I often found that the visit paid us by the Mookadar of BAGDAD had been of great service; for it led my Tatar to consider us all of some consequence, and I often heard him mention it with a deal of self-complacency,

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5.

ABOUT one o'clock this morning we entered a very mountainous country; and as our way lay through many narrow and dangerous passes, I was under great apprehensions from my horse having too much spirit, as a false step would have been inevitable destruction to us both; yet, I thought it not adviseable to check him, and very fortunately he brought me

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through

through all our perils without any accident.

At five o'clock we arrived at a large smelting-town, called GABAN MEDAN. It is extremely populous, and great numbers of its inhabitants are employed in collecting ore from the neighbouring mountains, as at ARGEENAH MEDAN. Here is also a very handsome mosque, and a lofty minaret, both built with hewn stone.

The town is seated near the bottom of a steep mountain, a river running below it in a very deep channel, which soon after joins the EUPHRATES. We had travelled about ten miles by the side of this river, passing many steep precipices, and our path frequently so very narrow, that it was with great difficulty our horses could make good their footing.

We left GABAN MEDAN at ten o'clock, and soon arrived at the banks of the EUPHRATES, being only about a mile from

the town. The river here ran in a very deep channel, and our way was down a narrow path cut through the solid rock. We then crossed in a ferry-boat, capacious enough to carry fifteen or twenty horses. The river is at this place much larger than might be expected at so great a distance from its mouth. I drank the water, and found it had a peculiar taste, wholly unlike that of any other water that I had ever tasted.

After crossing the EUPHRATES, we entered a strait path between two lofty mountains, by which we continued ascending for near two hours, keeping to the left as much as we could. On the top, to my great surprize, I found the ground highly cultivated. Proceeding a little farther, we reached the summits of some higher mountains, on which were no signs of culture. From these, however, I had a most extensive prospect. To the northward was a chain of exceedingly lofty mountains, ranging N. W. and S. E. having their tops covered with snow. From

this elevation, favoured too by an atmosphere perfectly clear, I could trace the EUPHRATES as far as its source. Running along the bases of those lofty mountains, it receives many very large streams that flow from them; and this it is that gives it the appearance of extraordinary amplitude near its source.

The TIGRIS, running nearly parallel, receives all those large rivers that flow from the CURDISTAN mountains. On our left, to the southward, were many stupendous mountains which supply the other branch of the EUPHRATES; for in this way it receives almost the whole of its contents, no large rivers joining it till it meets the TIGRIS.

We continued our route almost due West over a very hilly country, with little cultivation, till seven o'clock in the evening, when we arrived at some tents pitched on the top of a mountain. Here we remained an hour to refresh, and were visited by some of the Chiefs belonging to the

the encampment. One of them boasted that he had seven wives, and enquired how many I had in ENGLAND. It must be observed, that in this country it is customary for a man to have as many wives as he can support, and the more a man keeps, the better is he respected.

Many of the people in this country, during the sultry summer months, leave their towns and villages, which lie chiefly in vallies, and encamp upon some lofty hills, taking their flocks with them. On the mountains they enjoy a cooler purer air, and in general appear as fair and ruddy as the country people in ENGLAND.

Leaving this encampment, we descended some rugged passes by a road so very bad, that it was sometimes with much difficulty we could make our way. At ten o'clock we arrived at a small town called EMIR, situated on the west side of a very pleasant and well cultivated valley, with

with a very fine stream of water running towards the North. Here we remained all night, sleeping upon the bare ground.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6.

FROM EMIR we set out at half past five o'clock. There being several Tatars, and a great many other people going our road, horses were become very scarce. My Tatar, therefore, got a mule to carry his merchandize, and, joining a large party, they travelled very slowly.

For some time our way lay over stony ground, which made our journey fatiguing and unpleasant; I pushed on, however, with a Tatar who had only dispatches under his care, and was going to HASSAN CHILLABY. We passed over a very hilly and woody country, with seldom any track to direct us. On this account we often lost our way; the Tatar's guide not being well acquainted with the country.

Great

Great numbers of people were here employed in making charcoal for the use of the smelting-houses at GABAN MEDAN. They carry it from this place on mules in panniers, and we sometimes met fifty or sixty in a drove laden with it.

Many of the peasantry here fix their dwellings by the side of a hill, the top of the house being even with the ground; and I have often ridden over the top of a house without knowing it, and have with difficulty avoided falling through.

At one o'clock we arrived at the encampment of HASSAN CHILLABY; for here also the inhabitants, having quitted the town, which was about two miles distant, had encamped on a hill.

I now found that we could not proceed farther without a very strong guard.

The people belonging to the tent wherein we rested were very attentive, and I was fortunate in cultivating the
friendship

friendship of the women, who took some pains to provide such food and refreshment as they thought I should like best. I had also a favourable opportunity of observing their manners and customs.

The whole of the cattle belonging to these encampments are driven every morning into such of the vallies as contain the greatest plenty of water and vegetation, where they are watched all day by two or three persons employed for that purpose, and in the evening are brought back again. The tents are always pitched in a circle, and the cattle remain all night in the centre.

The people rise at dawn of day, and the first employment of the women is to milk their cows and goats, which are immediately sent off again to pasture. The women then put the milk into a sort of bottle made of a goat's skin, every part of which is sewed up, except the neck; but when they are churning, the neck is tied with a string close and tight enough to prevent the milk running out. They then fix
three

three strong sticks in the ground, in a form something like what we often use in raising weights, only on a smaller scale. From these they suspend the goat's-skin tied by each end, and continue shaking it backward and forward till it becomes butter; and they easily know when it is ready by the noise it makes. They then empty the skin into a large vessel, skim off the butter, put hot water into the skin to clean it, and hang it up to dry.

Beside this employment, they have also to bake bread every morning for the day's consumption; for all this work is performed by the women. The bread is baked on large iron plates, as in many parts of EUROPE; but should any of the women happen to lie longer than usual in the morning, so as not to be able to get their work done before the sun becomes hot, they not only have to work in the sun, but are heartily laughed at by better housewives.

The

The principal men who have many wives keep them in tents in a particular part of the encampment.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7.

It took up a long time to provide such a number of horses as were now wanted; for in our train were forty horse-loads of silver from ARGEENAH MEDAN, for CONSTANTINOPLE. The guard amounted to fifty horsemen; but the silver was under the immediate care of two Tatars and an officer of distinction. The troops were commanded by three elderly men.

The whole party set out at eight o'clock in the morning. The troops scoured the country on each side of the road, going at full speed into every inlet where they could expect to find any of the banditti that infest this country.

About

About four miles from HASSAN CHIL-LABY, we found neither cultivation nor inhabitants, though there is plenty of good water, and the soil appears favourable for culture.

We met a caravan going to DIARBEEKIR, and I had the favour with my Tatar of drinking coffee with the Chief.

The caravan consisted of horses, asses, and mules, camels not being able to thrird many of the steep narrow passes with which this country abounds.

For about fifteen miles my Tatar and I kept company with our guards; but we then pushed on at a brisk gallop for about seven more; and at one o'clock arrived at HADJEE KHAN.

This is a large village lying in a valley. The land is well cultivated for about half a mile round it; but the inhabitants in general are very poor, and much addicted to thieving.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8.

WE set out this morning at half past five o'clock with the silver, having the same guard as yesterday. The first part of this day's journey was over a hilly country, and the horses with the silver travelling very slowly, I went before the rest at an easy trot till I got about two miles before them, when I came to some lofty mountains, from which I had a very extensive prospect. The face of the country, however, had not a very favourable appearance, being chiefly mountainous, except to the N. W. which exhibited a very extensive plain without any cultivation, and over which lay our road. On this plain were three encampments, pitched in a triangle. Two of these were near the path, but I continued my route at about two miles before the rest of the company, not having any idea that I was in danger.

When

When I got abreast of the first encampment, an officer and six men from the guard came up to me on full gallop, and said that the people in the encampment would cut my throat. They took hold of my bridle and wanted me to return; but thinking it useless, as a part of the guard were now in fight, I remained here till the whole of our party came up. A few men came from the encampment and conversed with the officer. They were remarkably strong hardy-looking fellows, but had a something in their countenances which seemed to indicate that they did not get their livelihood very honestly.

Having enquired who I was, the officer told them that I was an English Consul, that being the title which I bore in the firmaun. The men examined the arms of our guard very attentively, and wished to lay hold of some of them, but the guards would not suffer it. I was not under the least apprehension of their doing me any personal injury, even before the military came up; for in case they had attacked

me I should not have attempted to resist; but I thought it prudent afterwards to keep near my Tatar.

On our reaching the second encampment, four men, armed with sabres and pistols, stood in the way to oppose our passing; and as we rode up, they seized my bridle, my Tatar's, and those of two other Tatars in company, who were all riding abreast a little before the military. I was perfectly passive, not supposing that they could mean to rob us, as the military were only a few yards behind. A scuffle, however, ensued; but the guard coming up rescued me. The man who had held my bridle in one hand had a drawn sabre in the other; but on one of the officers telling him that I was an English Consul, he immediately let go the bridle. I had my pistols ready, and was prepared to have shot my opponent, had any of the Tatars fired; but I did not think it proper to begin, not knowing the intentions of these people. One of the Tatars cocked a pistol to shoot a young man who seemed to

be

be very violent; but the military interfering prevented him. The young man, however, continuing to threaten the Tatar with his sabre, the guard, by order of one of the officers, surrounded him in such a manner with their spears and sabres, that had he moved an inch he must have been killed. In that situation we left them; but they soon after came up with us, and had not put the young man to death as I expected.

These people seem to be most violent against the Tatars, who frequently pass through the country without paying any tribute; for, being the messengers of government, they think they ought to be exempt. The people here had demanded fifteen piastres from each Tatar, who, having such a strong guard with them, boldly refused. The young man whom I have just mentioned as having been more violent than the rest, had lately had a brother shot by a Tatar.

This is a very extensive uncultivated plain, and contains neither sheep nor cattle but what belong to these banditti. The ground, however, being favourable to tilting, and the horses with the silver travelling very slowly, our guards made several matches. They would sometimes draw out of the ranks half a dozen on each side, and throw blunted spears, at which exercise these men are wonderfully dexterous, being able to pick up spears from the ground without quitting their horses. They have also a particular method of avoiding their opponents spears by hanging down on the opposite side of the horse, and thus exposing only one foot, yet at the same time going on full gallop. But though the men are at this exercise so much superior to Europeans, I was even more entertained by observing the motions of the horses, some of which were beautiful white Arabians. The horseman makes very little use of the reins on these occasions, and the horse is governed by the motions of the rider's body. If the latter lean

lean towards the right or left, the horse will turn to that side, and if the motion be quick will gallop full speed. If the rider lean forward, the horse gallops straight on; and if the man raise his body upright, the horse, though at that time on full speed, will stop in a moment, without the rider touching the bridle.

At about six miles distance from the second encampment, we approached another, the Chief of which came to us alone, and demanded money from our commanding officer, which was refused. He got, however, a few piastras from my Tatar.

We then continued unmolested till we got within about two miles of DELECTETAS, when we observed some men armed, on horseback, pursuing us at full speed from the second encampment, where it will be remembered we had the dispute. The Tatars, being much frightened, set out full gallop for DELECTETAS, and as I

was dressed in the same manner, and thought they might take me for a Tatar, I pushed on with them, leaving the military drawn up to receive them.

We arrived at DELECTETAS at two o'clock, and the Tatars hid themselves for some time, lest they should be pursued into the town.

When the banditti came up with the military, and found that the Tatars had rode off, they returned. These people always keep a number of horses near their tents to be mounted at a short notice, and some of them ready bridled and saddled.

The military themselves were very importunate for money, and I have, not unfrequently, been seized by some of the common soldiers, but they were always satisfied if I only gave them a few paras. This indeed was almost always the case when they could find me alone; and even the officers were not above asking for money;

ney; but as I did not expect any harsh treatment from them, I always referred them to my Tatar.

DELECTETAS is a small town, situated on the side of a mountain, in a barren country, and having little cultivation about it in proportion to the number of its inhabitants. Here is plenty of good water; and in the middle of the town is a large square stone building. This, as I have observed similar structures in several towns, I am inclined to think is intended as barracks for soldiers, having a great number of fire-places in them.

Many of the inhabitants have stacks of corn on the tops of their houses. Here also were some stacks of hay, being the first that I had seen in ASIA, a proof that the winter is very severe among these mountains,

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9.

WE set out from DELECTETAS at seven o'clock this morning, mounted on very fine horses, and with the same military guard as before.

On leaving DELECTETAS, we had very rough roads among some steep mountains covered with fir-trees. Beyond these, we crossed an extensive uncultivated plain, similar to that we had come over the day before.

After passing some most dangerous places, where, in case we had been attacked by banditti, we could neither have pushed forward nor returned to our guard, we galloped a few miles, accompanied by one of the military officers who had the care of my person.

At ten o'clock we arrived at a town called ULLASH, pleasantly situated by the

side of a river which flows from the mountains we had passed, and runs into the river CASALMACK. Between the town and some mountains to the northward are two salt lakes, one about three miles in circumference, the other about two. From ULLASH, in the neighbourhood of which there is a great deal of cultivation, we departed at eleven o'clock. Our escort had taken a different route, going between the mountains on our right and the two salt lakes. We overtook them in an hour, but did not remain with them long. I observed several other lakes of the same kind on our left, which are very easily distinguished, their shores being crusted with salt.

We now passed over several fine plains, though wholly uncultivated, and at two o'clock ascended some very high mountains, from which I had an extensive prospect. On our right to the northward were several large towns, and a fine well cultivated country. Beyond that was an exceeding

ceeding lofty mountain covered with snow, from which the river CASALMACK takes its rise. I have rarely witnessed a more beautiful prospect than I had from this mountain, particularly over the country to the North, the winding streams of the river CASALMACK enriching the scene.

On the top of these mountains the road was tolerably smooth, and our horses being good we galloped as fast as they could go, and passed over much ground in a short time. At three o'clock we descended by a very steep road, and, after crossing the river CASALMACK by a neat stone bridge of three arches, arrived at SIVAS.

SIVAS is a very large populous town, and exceedingly well watered, having several fountains and a great many clear streams running through it. It is seated on the west side of a very fertile valley, which is almost surrounded by lofty mountains, having no opening except where the river runs in and out, through
a very

a very narrow channel between two steep hills. Here are two stone bridges at about a mile distance from each other.

Great quantities of corn grow in this valley, but not much fruit, excepting plums, apples, and pears; but of garden vegetables there is great abundance. In the middle of the town are some very extensive gardens; and on an artificial hill is an old castle now tumbling into ruins.

Though the neighbourhood furnishes plenty of good materials for building, the houses in general have a very ordinary appearance, a great quantity of unsquared timber being employed to support an immense weight of stone and clay, with which the houses are covered. The inhabitants appear to enjoy much liberty; nor are the women confined, as in some large cities to the eastward.

SIVAS is nearly as large as LIVERPOOL, contains as many houses, and is, I think, fully as populous. Though most of the
private

private houses are but indifferent structures, many of the public buildings are elegant, and some of the minarets very lofty.

This might be said to be the first civilized place we had met with since we left GABAN MEDAN; for the greatest part of that extensive country through which we had passed is infested by numerous tribes of roving banditti, who, like many of the Arab tribes, have no fixed habitation, nor ever continue long in one place; and even the military are afraid to molest them. The small towns we had come through were little more than military stations, where troops are always kept for the purpose of conducting those who travel under the protection of the government. From this place to CONSTANTINOPLE no guard is necessary, and the forty loads of silver required only the officer and the two Tatars to protect it.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10.

WE were detained for want of horses till nine o'clock this evening, when, late as it was, we set out from SIVAS, accompanied by twelve more Tatars. Soon after we had left the town we ascended some very lofty mountains, on the top of which was a plain for a few miles; but we soon got again among steep heights, and continued travelling as fast as the road would permit. At day-break we arrived at the foot of a very lofty mountain, in the shape of a sugar-loaf; which, notwithstanding our then very elevated situation, appeared as high above us as any mountain in ENGLAND.

We continued among these heights till ten o'clock, when we descended through some steep narrow passes and arrived at TOCAT.

Throughout

Throughout this stage the roads were tolerably good, considering the face of the country; and we had not so many frightful precipices to pass as in the neighbourhood of MEDAN. There was only one indeed that could be reckoned dangerous, and that was over a stone bridge of two arches near the highest mountain. One of the arches was nearly down, having only a very narrow path standing, that scarcely left room for a horse, and no parapet to prevent accident.

TOCAR is about the size of SIVAS, but has a much better appearance than any town that I had before seen in the Turkish dominions. The houses are all tiled, and chiefly built with wood. Here was the greatest abundance of fruits that I ever saw, and remarkably fine in their kind; the grape vines, in particular, were abundant and excellent. The Armenians, who are very numerous here, make an excellent red wine, of a flavour something like claret, but much stronger. I sent my
Tatar

Tatar to purchase some, and he brought about two gallons, taking care also to purchase as much rackee. On tasting the wine I found it had a very strong body, and did not drink above half a wine glass. There were a great many Tatars and Turks in company, who laughed very heartily at my drinking wine, observing, that I drank it like coffee. They would not taste it, unless they had at least a pint to take off at a draught, and with the wine and rackee they all got drunk.

I now went into the Bazar to buy some fruit, and found that I could purchase for the value of a farthing as much as a man could eat of either mulberries, pears, apples, peaches, or apricots; and those, in general, much finer in their kind than ever I saw in EUROPE.

The town is surrounded by eminences, and is well watered. On the top of a lofty rocky mountain, on the west side of the town, are the remains of an old
castle,

castle, part of the wall of which has been built on the edge of a very steep rock, and much of it has fallen down the precipice.

What could have induced the early inhabitants of these countries to build in such situations I cannot imagine. I have generally observed the ruins of castles in situations very difficult of access, and with their fronts always on the edge of a frightful precipice. Every necessary must have been conveyed into them with much trouble, except water, which is always plenty among high mountains. They have been all built with hewn stone, but have not such heavy massy walls as we often meet with among ancient ruins in other parts of the world. They appear to have been built with a taste almost equal to our best pieces of modern architecture.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11.

WE set out, a very large party, from TOCAT at half past four o'clock this afternoon; and, being all badly mounted, and the greater part drunk, made a curious figure as we rode through the town. The streets being much crowded, the Tatars roared like so many bulls for the people to clear the passage, every one being obliged to give way to them, as in ENGLAND to the mail coaches; and if they were not very quick in getting out of the road, they were sure to feel some of the Tatars long whips.

From the town to the banks of the river CASALMACK, about a mile, is entirely covered with gardens and orchards. We forded the CASALMACK, and, turning nearly due West, travelled for about eighteen miles through one of the most beautiful vales I ever saw. The richness of the soil, and the great number of in-

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habitants,

habitants, has compelled them to partition the land; a circumstance that I had never before observed since I left INDIA, except in the case of gardens and orchards. The river CASALMACK runs through this vale, and the hills on each side are covered with trees. We turned to our right, and after crossing some woody heights, arrived at half past nine o'clock at a small town called ASSIN, in which stands a large square stone building as at DELECTETAS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12.

WE fet out this morning from ASSIN at five o'clock, and a little below the town crossed, by a wooden bridge, a river that runs into the CASALMACK. We now took a course nearly due East, having high mountains on each side covered with trees. We then turned to the North up a valley, which intersected this range of hills on our left, and continued for about five miles.

At the head of this valley was a coffee-house, where we rested a short time and drank coffee. Our party, not having been able to get either wine or rackee since we left TOCAT, were all become pretty sober again.

We now crossed some very high hills at the head of this valley, thickly covered with trees; and entered a fine well cultivated vale, lying East and West. We turned to our left down this vale, the hills on each side covered with wood, and when we had travelled about fifteen miles turned again to the North over some lofty mountains, among which we continued till we descended to AMASIA, where we arrived at two o'clock; though some of our horses were so much tired that we had been obliged to leave them in the mountains.

For nearly a mile above the town was a deep valley, in which were many gardens and orchards. There was also a fine stream of water running from the moun-

tains that we had come over, on which were several mills.

AMASIA is a very extensive and populous town, nearly as large as TOCAT, and is surrounded by many lofty rugged mountains. The faces of some of these mountains have nearly half a mile of almost perpendicular height; and in one of these are several places cut in the solid rock, similar to a Hindoo Pagoda, and which can only be approached by little narrow passes cut through the rock.

The river CASALMACK runs through AMASIA, but cannot be seen at one view for more than the length of the town, making a circuitous course among the mountains, and running in a deep narrow channel both above and below the town. It is here a very large river, but much too rapid for navigation.

The town is well watered, particularly the lower parts, by means of large wheels
near

near thirty feet in diameter. These are turned by the stream, having a great many large buckets fastened to them. As the wheel turns round, those buckets empty themselves into troughs fixed within a few feet as high as the wheel. By this method they are enabled to keep up a continual stream of water, which is conveyed by pipes from the troughs to the hummums, fountains, &c.

The houses in AMASIA are mostly built with wood, but many with stone, and covered with tiles as at TOCAT. The greater part of the inhabitants being Christians, here is only one mosque, and two lofty minarets, all built with hewn stone, and very handsome structures. The dome of the mosque is covered with lead.

The hummums are very extensive, and built with hewn stone. Before these are some pleasant walks, with several rows of trees, and the whole is surrounded by a lofty wall.

The town can only be approached by two narrow passes, one toward the North, and another toward the South; and these are so very rugged, narrow, and steep, that they might be easily defended by a very small force.

They make here a very good white wine, something like sherry, and very strong. With this and rackee our whole party again got drunk. A SIVAS Tatar, named SULIMAN, who had accompanied us from SIVAS, attempted to shoot another Tatar who was returning from CONSTANTINOPLE, but was prevented by the rest interfering. It is impossible to describe the confusion among those people when they quarrel. Upon the slightest provocation they have immediate recourse to their arms, for they are never without a brace of pistols and a dagger by their side. I have seen many quarrels among them, and some of the party severely wounded, but never remember any to have been killed upon the spot.

My Tatar not being quite ready, I set out at seven o'clock in the evening with a Turk who had accompanied us from SIVAS. He had four horses under his care, one for his guide, one for himself, and two with each a pair of leather bags, but not heavy. He came under the protection of SULIMAN, the Tatar. This Turk was as fond of wine and rackee as any of them, and was reckoned by the Turks a very fine singer. Whenever we entered or left a town, he would sing and roar loud enough to be heard a mile. I have frequently seen the people run out of doors in great numbers to hear him.

Soon after we had left the Conac, our Turk having drunk as much wine and rackee as rendered it somewhat difficult for him to keep on horseback, he began singing and roaring, and whipping his guide; so that before we got out of AMASIA the guide wished to return, but the Turk would not permit him.

We ascended a very lofty mountain towards the northern pass, and before we got to the top it became very dark. As we came near a spring of water, the guide said that he wanted to drink. Putting, therefore, the fore-horse's bridle into the Turk's hand, to hold till he returned, he availed himself of the darkness of the night to run away unperceived. We waited for him some time, but at last, suspecting the case, pursued our journey. The Turk leading three horses, we with some difficulty got to the top. Here we soon lost our road, but were fortunate enough to discover a light about eleven o'clock, which we found proceeded from a small encampment, where some of the inhabitants of AMASIA were employed in getting in their harvest. I was very happy to meet with these people; for the Turk being still drunk, the night dark, and the ground steep, I found myself very unpleasantly situated. Even after we discovered the light, we had to descend some very steep places before we could reach it. When

we

we had got to the encampment, we tied the five horses together, and went to sleep upon the ground.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13.

THE Turk having been much refreshed by his sleep, at half past two o'clock we got ready, it being now a little moonlight, and by the assistance of one of the people belonging to the encampment we got into the right road. It was very rough and steep for some time, and I was glad when it became day-light. At length we got from among these dangerous steeps, and descended into an extensive uncultivated vale about fifteen miles over. We galloped most of the way across this vale, the Turk leading the horses, and I acting the part of a Tatar, in whipping the horses to keep them on a gallop. We arrived at MARSIWAN at half past six o'clock, where we found the rest of our party. Our horses were completely knocked up; even
mine,

mine, though a very good one, was, by galloping from one side to the other to whip the horses, become so weary, that I was afraid I should have been obliged to leave him before we reached MARSIWAN. The Turk seemed much gratified by the assistance I had given him.

MARSIWAN is a town nearly as large as SIVAS, and situated near the foot of some woody mountains on the north side of this extensive vale. It is well watered, and abounds with corn, as well as most kinds of fruits, which were now ripe. They have many vineyards near the town, and make a very good red wine similar to that which we had at TOCAT. The Turk who had accompanied me from AMASIA again got drunk, and roared till he became excessively disordered in his stomach.

We set out again from MARSIWAN at eight o'clock, and continued on the north side of the vale for about twenty miles. At the west end is a town called AJAMQUE, situated

situated in a very fine country; we did not, however, go through this town, but passed it on our left.

We now turned to the northward, and entered a very hilly woody country, thridding several steep and narrow passes by the side of a river, some of which were so lofty and steep as to make my head giddy.

We met with little cultivation after we passed AJAMQUE, till we arrived in the neighbourhood of OSMANJIKE, which we reached at seven o'clock.

The town of OSMANJIKE is built round a steep rocky mount, on the top of which also some houses have been erected. It is a tolerably large town, and stands on the banks of the river ATOEZU.

We set out again at eight o'clock in the evening, and crossed the river over a neat stone bridge of fifteen arches. We then continued on the western banks of

the river, and rode very fast over much rough and woody ground. It was very dark till the moon rose; but we continued to ride as fast as our horses could go till half past twelve o'clock, when we arrived at a small town called HADJEE HAMZA. This stage was thirty miles.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14.

WE fet out this morning from HADJEE HAMZA at six o'clock, and continued for about an hour on the banks of the river ATOEZU. We then found the river take a turn to the northward, being joined by another considerable one that flows from the westward. We forded the latter, and continued on the north side of it for two hours. The country through which we passed was very hilly and woody; near the river were several paddy grounds, and as much cultivation as the face of the country would permit. We rode briskly all the morning, and at ten o'clock arrived at TOSIA, a neat town built on the side of a hill,

hill, at the foot of which is a fine fertile country. This stage was twenty-seven miles.

Quitting TOSIA at one o'clock, we passed several vineyards, and then got into a very hilly woody country. We travelled some time by the side of a river, on the banks of which were a few paddy grounds, in such spots as were capable of cultivation. We rode briskly the greatest part of this stage, and arrived at seven o'clock at a small town called COJASATE, situated in a barren hilly country. The Conac here is a new building, and had better accommodations than I had met with since I left BAGDAD.

From COJASATE we set out at ten o'clock at night. Till the moon rose, it was very dark, and the roads bad. The Tatars galloped as fast as they could, and in about an hour we got out of the bad road into a country rather hilly, but perfectly clear from wood. In descending a hill, a horse fell down and broke one of his

his fore-legs. He was loaded with a pair of leathern bags belonging to the SIVAS Tatar SULIMAN; the trappings were immediately taken off the horse, and put on another; so that we were not detained many minutes. Leaving the horse upon the ground, we set out again, the road becoming tolerably good, except being rather hilly. We continued to ride as fast as our horses could go, and in two hours after the first accident, galloping full speed down a hill, another horse fell, broke his neck, and died instantly. We were not, however, much detained by this accident, having plenty of spare horses; but rode more moderately after the second accident, and arrived at half past two o'clock at CARACHURIN. This stage was twenty-eight miles.

CARACHURIN is a large straggling town built on both sides of a rivulet between two hills. The houses in general very mean, and badly built. They are only one story high, and have flat roofs.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15.

WE departed thence at half past four o'clock, and soon after we had left the town entered a fine open champaign country. The roads being very good, we arrived at CORREGELAR at six o'clock, being only twelve miles.

This is a small and ill-built town, containing about two thousand inhabitants, who are chiefly employed in cultivating the neighbouring plains. Want of fresh horses detained us here till one o'clock, when we again set out, and, after travelling over a fine cultivated open country for twelve miles, arrived at half past two o'clock at SERKEES, a small but neat town, many of the houses being built with hewn stone. We dined here, and set out again on the same horses at three o'clock.

We

We rode briskly over a fine well cultivated country till five o'clock, when we got among some very steep mountains, great part of the road over which was so dangerous, that one false step of the horse would have plunged us from the height of at least three hundred yards into a river.

Quitting at length these dangerous passes, we entered a fine open country on our right, where was a small town by the side of a river. We turned, however, to the left, and arrived at BAINDER at six o'clock. This stage was eighteen miles.

BAINDER is a small town, but stands on an eminence, and at a distance has a very pretty appearance. The mosque is an indifferent building, but the minaret is very handsome and lofty; and the houses are chiefly built with wood.

We left BAINDER on fresh horses at ten o'clock; and, though it was very dark till the moon rose, and the roads indifferent,

we

we reached JEREDARC at half past two in the morning, without meeting with any accident.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16.

ON our arrival at JEREDARC, we met with good accommodations. The town is in an elevated situation, being almost at the top of a high hill, and it being a cool morning they had a good fire in the Conac, and the people were civil and attentive.

The town is large, and has a good Bazar, well supplied. They excel here in manufacturing leather, and many other articles; and there are also several copper manufactories.

The houses have a singular appearance, being in general built with large round trees let into each other at the ends, and the crevices filled up with clay. Very

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few

few houses are tiled, being chiefly covered with deal boards.

We left JEREDARC at seven o'clock, and for the first five miles passed through a hilly woody country. We then entered a very fine cultivated vale, surrounded with hills covered with wood. In the midst of this vale is a fine lake of fresh water.

Here is a great deal of corn; the country is cultivated nearly the whole way to BOLI; and it appeared to me to produce more corn, in proportion to the extent of land, than I had seen in any part of ENGLAND. Here was also abundance of fruits of various kinds.

After passing several villages both to the right and left, we arrived at BOLI at two o'clock. This stage is forty miles.

About half way between JEREDARC and BOLI I observed some ruins, of which
most

most of the stone was marble. Much of it appearing to have been cut in a stile of workmanship superior to any Turkish masonry that I had yet seen, I was induced to take a nearer view, and rode among the ruins. On one marble column I saw several Greek letters, but much defaced. I was able, however, to trace the word *ZEUS*, and am persuaded, that could I have spared time, I might have been able to have made out great part of the inscription. My Tatar and the rest of the party had left me behind, and I was in consequence prevented from stopping so long as I could have wished. About three miles nearer *BOLI*, on the right side of the road, are some more ruins, with walls of an extraordinary thickness; but I did not observe any thing interesting among them, and therefore passed on.

BOLI is a large town in a fertile situation. It contains, however, nothing worthy of particular notice. The mosques, minarets, and hummums, are all very ordinary buildings. The public edifices are

numerous, and the town is well supplied with good water.

From BOLI we set out on fresh horses at half past seven o'clock. It became very dark in about an hour, at which time we entered a large forest, wherein we continued for twenty-five miles. This, my reader may imagine, was disagreeable enough; for the night was so dark, that I could scarcely see my horse's head and was frequently in danger of being knocked out of my seat by the branches of trees. It was with some difficulty that our party could keep together, and the road was sometimes so very steep, that I could scarcely sit my horse.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17.

IN this extensive forest we continued till we nearly reached DUCHEA, at which place we arrived at two o'clock, after fording a large river. This stage was thirty-six miles.

DUCHEA

DUCHEA is a small village situated in a very fertile country, but entirely surrounded by large forests.

We departed thence at six o'clock, and soon entered a woody country with very little cultivation. On our road we met a hundred horsemen conducting a Turkish Bashaw, who rode in the centre of the troops in a palanquin carried by four mules, two before and two behind. The palanquin was slung so as to be easy in every position.

We soon entered another thick forest, similar to that which we had passed through the night before. In this we had to travel about twenty miles, and arrived at HINDAK at half past twelve o'clock. This stage is twenty-seven miles.

HINDAK is an inconsiderable town, situated in a valley amid large forests, and contains nothing worthy of particular notice.

It was half past five o'clock before we were able to procure fresh horses here; and seeing nothing but forests around us, I was unwilling to proceed, as it would be dark long before we could reach SABANJA, and I recollected the many dangers we had escaped the preceding night; but after being well assured by the Tatars that the road was tolerable, I consented to proceed.

For the first three hours we travelled through a woody country, partly cultivated in the interjacent vallies.

We now passed upwards of a thousand buffaloes carrying ship-timber to CONSTANTINOPLE from the forests through which we had travelled. Some of the timbers were remarkably fine; and the whole had been squared and formed in the forests, where we had seen many sawyers at work as we came through.

At nine o'clock we crossed the river ZACHAREA over a wooden bridge about a
2 quarter

quarter of a mile long. We were, however, obliged to dismount and walk over this bridge; for, instead of planks, it was covered with half round pieces of wood, which frequently gave way under the horses feet, and it had neither parapet nor railing.

After crossing the ZACHAREA, we continued in a very woody country till we arrived at the lake SABANJA; whence, keeping along the western shore, we arrived at half past eleven o'clock at the town of the same name. This stage was thirty-six miles.

The lake SABANJA is near six miles long, and nearly of a triangular form. It is a very fine sheet of fresh water, and its being situated in a woody country, adds much to its beauty. I found the road tolerably good all the way, as the Tatars had represented at HINDAK.

Behind SABANJA, to the southward, is still a continuation of those extensive forests

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forests through which we had travelled. They are above two hundred miles in length, and about sixty broad. In some places they are very lofty, and form an extensive chain of mountains ranging East and West, which I have always observed to have been their situation since I came into the country. Our route through the forests was generally North, and across these was a paved causeway that continued the whole way. It appears to be very ancient, and is now much out of repair. The stones are very large, and the earth in many places has been washed away from both sides of the pavement to the depth of near three feet. It is in many places undermined, and has fallen down; yet, though it is now so very rough that the horses can only go upon it in a few places, it still serves as a guide to those who travel across those forests.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18.

WE set out this morning from SABANJA at four o'clock, and rode through a beautiful country. At about eight miles distance we had a fine prospect of ISMIT, which we reached at half past eight o'clock.

ISMIT is a large town, and has a delightful appearance from the valley before it. The houses are not over-crowded, and the prospect is much enlivened by cypress trees interspersed all over the place. The lower part of the town is washed by the sea. Being built on the slope of a hill facing the South, it is very well supplied with water; and on the side of the hill, both to the East and West, are many vineyards and orchards, but more particularly to the westward, which is entirely covered with gardens, orchards, and vineyards, for five or six miles. The neatness of the town, the garden grounds, the sea, the
finely.

finely-cultivated country on the opposite shore, and the two rivers, with the corn-fields in the vale before the town, form altogether one of the finest prospects I ever saw.

We set out from İSMİR at half past nine o'clock, and continued near the sea, sometimes on the beach. About twenty miles West from that place are some ancient ruins close to the sea. Part of the walls, some of which are about ten feet thick, have fallen on to the beach. Seven miles further West is the town of COUSHAN, very pleasantly situated on the side of a hill sloping gradually to the sea.

About this town are many hundreds of acres disposed in vineyards, and gardens for a great variety of other fruits, which were now chiefly ripe.

At COUSHAN we left the sea and turned northward. After we had passed the vineyards belonging to the town, we entered a very fine plain, through the middle of which

which runs a small river that has a neat stone bridge of three arches over it. We now rode briskly most of the way, and arrived at half past five o'clock at GABAZA.

GABAZA is a small but neat town, pleasantly situated on the side of a hill, from the top of which is a very fine prospect of the ARCHIPELAGO, and part of its numerous islands.

From the town to the sea, which is about three miles, is entirely covered with gardens, orchards, vineyards, and corn-fields.

From GABAZA we departed at half past six o'clock on fresh horses, and passing through a very fine country near the sea, sometimes on the beach, arrived at a town called MARICAR, where we remained an hour to refresh.

We set out again; but, going very slowly, it was two o'clock before we reached SCUTARI.

Here

Here we rode down to the sea-beach, unfaddled our horses, and remained till day-break, when we procured a boat, put into it what little baggage I had with me, and crossed over to CONSTANTINOPLE to have it examined at the Custom-house. The officer suffered it to pass upon receiving a piaſtre; and we crossed over to PERA, to the house of PETER TOOKE, Esq. the East India Company's Agent, to whom I had letters of recommendation.

CONSTANTINOPLE having been so often described by travellers, and being so well known to English readers, the author thinks it neither expedient nor proper to swell this volume by accounts that cannot possibly possess either novelty or interest to recommend them. His object has been to describe such parts as he has visited, and which had been but little frequented by former travellers from ENGLAND.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25.

HAVING stayed a week at CONSTANTINOPLE, I obtained fresh passports from the Porte, and from the Imperial Minister Baron HERBERT DE RATHKAAL, and at half past seven o'clock in the evening of this day set out, accompanied by a Janizary, who was to be paid three hundred piastres to conduct me to the frontiers.

After travelling two or three miles from CONSTANTINOPLE, we entered an open country without the smallest marks of cultivation, and not bearing the least appearance of being in the vicinity of a large city. Even round the city itself the garden grounds and orchards are very small in proportion to the population.

At nine o'clock, looking back towards CONSTANTINOPLE, I observed a dreadful fire, which my Janizary informed me was at SCUTARI.

We

We continued our route over an open barren hilly country, travelling at the rate of five miles an hour; and at half past ten o'clock arrived at a small neat town called **CHAQUE MEDJA**.

This town is pleasantly seated at the head of a salt lake about fifteen miles long, but of very unequal breadth. The lake is about two hundred yards from the **ARCHIPELAGO**, but has communication with it by a very narrow channel over which is a stone bridge. The ground being swampy, there is a stone causeway of about a quarter of a mile long, for the convenience of passengers.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26.

WE set out from **CHAQUE MEDJA** this morning at half past five o'clock; and after crossing the bridge and causeway at the head of the lake, ascended some hills, whence we had a very fine prospect over the **ARCHIPELAGO** and the surrounding country,

country, which had a more favourable appearance than in the neighbourhood of CONSTANTINOPLE, it being in high cultivation and almost crowded with villages.

After leaving several vineyards on our right, we arrived at BEU CHAQUE MEDJA at half past eight o'clock.

BEU CHAQUE MEDJA is a tolerably large town, situated on the west side of a hill at the head of a salt lake about four miles long, which has communication with the sea. Here too is a stone bridge, and a cause-way about a quarter of a mile long between the lake and the sea.

Nearly opposite to BEU CHAQUE MEDJA, on the East side of a hill, is a small neat town called CAILITRATTA, behind which are many vineyards, and on the sea before the town were several small vessels riding at anchor.

We left this place at half past nine o'clock, and continued along the shore, sometimes

sometimes on the beach; and at about six miles west of BEU CHAQUE MEDJA we came to four villages lying nearly equidistant from each other, two being inland, and two near the shore. The first we came to is called COMBURGUS. It is a small village, but has many ruins about it, which imply that it has once been of more importance than it is at present.

Continuing our route along the beach six miles further, we reached a very neat town called BADUS. Here is a considerable building standing on the beach, having part of its walls washed by the sea. It is a square structure and very lofty; the whole is built entirely with hewn stone, has been very well finished, and still remains almost entire.

Soon after we left BADUS, we crossed some hills, whence we had a very fine prospect over the sea. The wind being westerly, there were about a dozen ships, beside great numbers of smaller craft, going towards CONSTANTINOPLE. Within
the

the islands also there were three Turkish ships of war returning from a cruize, a fifty gun ship, a frigate, and a corvette. These vessels were warping out of the harbour the morning I arrived at CONSTANTINOPLE.

We continued our journey along the shore for near eight miles, leaving on our right a very finely cultivated country, which slopes gradually down to the sea. After passing many vineyards and orchards for about a mile, we arrived at KILLEEVER at half past two o'clock.

KILLEEVER * is a large and populous town, which has once been well fortified, a great part of it being still surrounded by a strong wall. Some of the mosques and minarets are very handsome buildings. The lower part of the town is washed by the sea. We saw several vessels, some of about two hundred tons burden, riding at anchor in a very fine bay, which

* Silivria in the Maps.

appeared to me to be so well sheltered by the high land on each side of it, that ships might, in any weather, ride in safety.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27.

FROM KILLEEVER we set out at three o'clock this morning, and journed about eight miles along the sea-shore, sometimes on the beach. We then turned to our right, and, quitting the sea-coast, passed over an open country, with little cultivation and few inhabitants. The first village we came to was CONNYCLUE, where we arrived at half past six o'clock, and remained an hour to refresh. After leaving CONNYCLUE, we came across a very dreary country, in which not a tree nor a stone was to be seen. The soil is very white, but is neither clay nor sand; and what little vegetation there is, is nearly destroyed by innumerable quantities of ground squirrels.

The

The first signs of cultivation we met with were the vineyards belonging to a town called CHOUROE, and which are near three miles long. At CHOUROE we arrived about ten o'clock, and remained an hour, when we pursued our route over an open barren country. About eight miles beyond CHOUROE we crossed a river, over which is a bridge of fifty arches, all built with hewn stone, and neatly turned. So many arches, however, did not appear by any means necessary at present, as there was not a great body of water in the river.

We now entered a country possessing higher cultivation and more inhabitants, and turned about a quarter of a mile out of our road, to feed our horses at a town called CARRASTAN. In a deep narrow valley near this town were three lofty stone pillars, which, I was informed, were to support pipes for conveying water across the valley to the town.

We only rested half an hour here, and then continued our route. Little variation occurred in the face of the country till we arrived in the neighbourhood of BORGAS, which we reached at half past six o'clock. Here our prospect was much enlivened by the appearance of a neat town, and trees interspersed about the surrounding country; for we had not seen any, except a few fruit trees, since we left the sea-coast.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28.

THIS morning we set out from BORGAS at four o'clock, and soon after we left the town entered a large forest, in which we continued for about twenty miles without seeing either habitation or culture, till we reached a small village called ASSIBALY. From this place to KIRKLEESAN, about four miles, the whole way is covered with vineyards.

We

We arrived at KIRKLEESAN at ten o'clock. This is a very large and populous town, having ten mosques and minarets, and several hummums. All the public buildings are of hewn stone and marble, and some of them very handsome. Here we procured fresh horses, having continued upon the others all the way from CONSTANTINOPLE.

At twelve o'clock we set out from KIRKLEESAN, and soon entered a very woody hilly country, which abounded with fine marble. Being on fresh horses we rode briskly, and at three o'clock arrived at a small village called ERICLEE, around which there was a little cultivation, the first we had met with since we passed the vineyards of KIRKLEESAN.

We did not stop here, however, but continued our route without any delay till half past four, when we arrived at a village called CANAREA, where we put up at a Greek's house to refresh. The Greeks are a very civil obliging people, and our

host brought us out the best refreshments he had in the house. In these small villages there are very few Turks, and if there be one, it is almost certain that he is a barber; but he will strut about and assume as much consequence as a bashaw. I had frequently observed these great men in the little villages we passed through, and, on enquiry, was generally informed that they were barbers. This made me rather more attentive to the actions of the one we met with in this village, who, after giving the salam in great form, came to converse with my Janizary. I was enabled ever afterwards to distinguish these important personages.

We only remained here half an hour, and then continued our journey through some very thick woods. At half past seven o'clock we reached a village called FACCUE, where we changed horses, and set out again at half past eight. The whole of our road was through a close wood till we arrived at a town called KARRAPOONAR, which we reached at half past twelve o'clock.

The distance from KIRKLEESAN to FACCUE is thirty-six miles, and from thence to KARRAPOONAR fifteen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29.

FROM KARRAPOONAR we set out at four o'clock. For the first two hours our road was through very thick woods, and I observed that our route had been nearly due North ever since we left the sea-coast.

At eight o'clock we arrived at a village called BENLEE, where we stopt half an hour at a Greek's house to refresh. The master of the house had two very beautiful daughters. The Greeks in general have handsome features; but these particularly attracted my attention. They, as well as the peasantry in general, had a very ridiculous custom of tying all their treasure round their necks; and I have actually seen some wear three or four hundred Venetian sequins perforated and

fastened round their necks with silk strings. This custom, however, is confined to the unmarried part of the sex, wives having no ornament whatever on that part of their persons.

An arm of the BLACK SEA reaches within two miles of BENLEE, which in part separates ROMALIA from BULGARIA.

After we left BENLEE the country had a better appearance, exhibiting a great deal of cultivation all the way to IDOS, which we reached at ten o'clock. It abounded with fine cattle, all milk-white except their ears and the end of the tail, which were brown; there were also many buffaloes.

IDOS is a tolerably large town, and pleasantly situated. Many of the houses are built within a compound, similar to those of the Bramins and Nairs in INDIA, which makes the town at a distance appear much larger than it really is.

The

The peasantry here separate the corn from the straw by the same method as in ASIA MINOR, and which I have observed to be adopted in all countries where the rains are periodical. They make a ring about forty yards round, sometimes of clay, and sometimes paved. They then bring their corn from the field, and throw it in a heap in the middle of the ring. They have a sledge too, which is sometimes drawn by bullocks, sometimes by horses, and some of these have pieces of iron driven into the bottom to cut the straw as it goes round; though in others I have seen flint stones fastened to the bottom. Upon the sledge is a heavy weight. Beside the person who drives the cattle, another is employed with a fork in tossing the straw from the ring if the grain is extracted, and taking fresh from the heap in the middle. In this manner they are enabled to continue till they have extracted the whole of their corn, without being in any danger of having it spoiled by rain. This is much quicker

quicker, and easier too, than our mode of thrashing in ENGLAND.

As the weather in ENGLAND is local, perhaps more so than in any other part of the world, and cannot be depended upon many days together, might not those who have large farms and extensive buildings follow a similar plan, or even build sheds, which would answer as well, and abate much of the very heavy labour of thrashing? By this mode they would also save time, and consequently be better able to attend to the cultivation and improvement of their lands.

We set out from IDOS at twelve o'clock on fresh horses; and at two miles beyond the town entered an extensive forest, in which we continued till seven o'clock, when we crossed a pretty ample river called DERRA, and arrived at a small town named CHENGA near its banks.

The

The road through the forest was sometimes very bad. We followed the bed of a river for an hour, which was rough and rocky, and the horses were sometimes in danger. Though we were frequently near the BLACK SEA, the trees were so very thick that I had not often an opportunity of seeing it; yet we were sometimes within two hundred yards of the beach, and saw a ship standing towards CONSTANTINOPLE.

The forest in many places has the underwood cleared away to encourage the growth of the oaks; and there being a great many of these, and some very fine timber among them, from their vicinity to the sea they may be shipped with little trouble.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30.

WE set out from CHENGA at four o'clock, and after passing a little cultivation near the town entered another thick forest,

forest, which led us to a village called ENECHEE, after crossing a river bearing the same name about eight miles from CHENGA.

We soon came to another forest, in which we continued till we arrived near PRAVADEE, which we reached at seven o'clock.

PRAVADEE is a large and well inhabited town, containing many very good buildings. It is situated in a narrow vale running N. and S. between two steep rocky hills. We remained here an hour to refresh and change horses.

Ascending the hill on the western side, we had a fine prospect of the surrounding country, and on the top of the hill on the east side of PRAVADEE is another large town called DISDARCHUE.

We now entered a fine country, and passed through a great many villages in high cultivation, and abounding in orchards

chards and vineyards. Most kinds of fruit were now ripe, in great plenty, and very cheap, as were likewise provisions of all kinds.

Our road lay now more West, and we passed through a remarkably fine country in the neighbourhood of a town called CHELEPCHA, twenty miles West from PRAVADEE.

On leaving CHELEPCHA we passed a village on our right called MADARA; then rode across an extensive plain for twelve miles, and at three o'clock arrived at CHUMLOO.

This is a very populous town, and, though not regularly fortified, is of great natural strength from its situation, having a steep mountain behind the town, forming a semicircle, on which the Turks have planted several batteries of cannon.

During the late war a considerable Russian army appeared in the plains before
this

this town, and defeated the Turkish forces. The latter retreated into the town, and threw up a mud wall with a fosse and paling before the town, and up each side of the mountain. [This temporary fortification still remains entire.] As the Russian army approached the town, the Turks played upon them from their batteries on the mountain. The Russians here lost their General and retreated.

On the western side of the mountain is a thick forest which is perfectly inaccessible to an army.

We left CHUMLOO at five o'clock on fresh horses, and, travelling westward through a well cultivated country, came at twelve o'clock to a large town called ARNOOTKA, situated in a valley. At one we reached RASGRAT; and this is reckoned thirty-two miles from CHUMLOO.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31.

AT half past six we set out from RASGRAT on fresh horses, and at eight o'clock stopped an hour to refresh at a village called UCHENCHA.

We now rode for near forty miles through one of the finest countries I had yet seen, with corn and ploughed land on each side as far as the eye could reach.

At six o'clock we arrived at ROCHUKE, but could not see the town till we were within half a mile of it, being situated on the banks of the DANUBE at the foot of a hill, which continues for several miles near the DANUBE, and is covered with vineyards.

ROCHUKE is a large populous town about the size of LIVERPOOL. We did not, however, stop here, but crossed the DANUBE, and landed about three miles
below

below on the opposite side, at a town called ERGNOFF. The DANUBE is here an ample river, but does not appear to me so large as either the EUPHRATES or TIGRIS.

We refreshed at ERGNOFF, and waited near two hours for horses and carts, in which we were conveyed to a village called COPUCHEN, where we arrived at eleven o'clock. On enquiry, I found that this was the manner in which I was to travel through WALLACHIA. These post carts are light, and run very easy upon four wheels. They have not, either about the cart or the horses furniture, the smallest particle of iron or other metal whatever. The horses are small, but run very fast; for we travelled, upon an average, rather quicker than by the mail coaches in ENGLAND.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.

WE fet out this morning at fix o'clock. I had one post-cart with three horses, and my Janizary another with the same number. We met with no cultivation till nine o'clock, when we reached a village called CALLIGURRAN, where we breakfasted and remained till half past ten.

We then resumed our journey through a very fine country, though little cultivated. The soil, however, appears well adapted for culture, being a strong brown earth, very even, and not a stone to be seen the natural produce of the place.

At twelve o'clock we crossed a large river called ARJECTS over a bridge of boats made fast by a cable. Loose pieces of wood, half squared, were laid athwart the boats, which made it very disagreeable crossing. We then continued our route through a fine country in which

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little

little corn was grown, except maize, and at three o'clock reached BUKAREST, the capital of WALLACHIA, and the residence of the HOSPODAR.

I now made use of the letters of introduction which I had received from the Imperial Minister Baron HERBERT DE RATHKAAL at CONSTANTINOPLE to M. DE MERKELIUS, the Imperial Consul General here; from whom I received the greatest civilities, and at whose house I remained till Monday the 4th.

He politely took me in his carriage all round the environs of BUKAREST, and gave me every information that I could wish respecting the country.

BUKAREST is a very extensive and populous city, containing three hundred and sixty Greek churches, one Roman and one Lutheran chapel, and a few convents. Here are no Turkish mosques, nor are they permitted to be built in any part of the province. Gentlemen's carriages are
here

here very numerous, and a man is looked upon in no other light than as a servant or a peasant, who does not keep one. A coach, with a pair of horses and a driver, may be all kept here for fifty pounds sterling. The coachmen and footmen are in general Egyptian slaves.

There is much intrigue carried on in the higher classes, particularly among the married people. A man never sees his intended bride till they exchange rings, a ceremony that takes place a few days before the marriage; for the parents or guardians of both parties make up the match without asking the consent of either.

In a very short time after the marriage ceremony the parties generally discontinue sleeping together, each carrying on their respective intrigues. The ladies usually keep their separate carriages, as a coach, with a proper equipage, is commonly a part of the marriage portion. The unmarried

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young

young ladies, however, are kept up as close as in a nunnery, and are not permitted to keep company with any men whatever until the ceremony of exchanging rings with their intended husbands has taken place.

I believe there are few people in the world, particularly among those who call themselves Christians, that make more professions of religion than these people, and in reality have less. In some of the churches here they have prayers continually from morning till night, and these are chaunted as in Catholic chapels.

Their language is harmonious, something resembling the Greek, and indeed has several Greek characters in it.

WALLACHIA possesses in general a rich soil, but is rather woody. In the greatest part of the province there is scarcely a hill or stone the natural produce of the country. Their corn is chiefly maize, of
which

which they have a great quantity; yet good wheaten bread is to be had in the larger towns.

Provisions of all kinds are very cheap; and I bought a fine fowl for six Turkish parra, value about three halfpence sterling.

The inhabitants in general are Greeks, and they have not many foreigners among them. In the larger towns, however, there are some Jews and a few Germans.

They erect crucifixes near the roads; some of these are of stone, but they are chiefly made of wood. All, however, are painted; some having JESUS CHRIST, some the VIRGIN MARY, others the Twelve Apostles, some the Ten Commandments, prayers, &c. depicted on them. These crucifixes are very numerous, and most of the country people make their obedience as they pass them.

The province is well watered; the bridges are all built with wood; but they

have a very ridiculous custom of laying loose pieces of half-squared timber across the bridges, which frequently give way under the horses feet.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

HAVING provided some necessaries and provisions for my journey, as well as some trifles which I might have occasion for while performing quarantine, I took leave of my kind host, M. DE MERKELIUS, to whom I am apprehensive that I must always remain indebted.

I had here a post-cart similar to what I came in, but with four horses, for I wished to travel as quick as possible. I had a Janizary to accompany me, who rode on horseback, and was of much service in interpreting, as well as in providing horses, so as to prevent unnecessary delays. I was anxious to arrive at the LAZARETTO before sun-set the following day, as I should thereby save a whole day and night. I travelled,

travelled, therefore, much faster than I could have expected, and even quicker than the mail in ENGLAND, as will appear by the following distances and towns through which I passed.

	<i>German Posts.</i>
BUKAREST to POLONTINE	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
FLOREST	2
GIEST	3
GIERBUOFF	2
PITTEST	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
MOARA	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
ARGISH	2
SALATROOK	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
PERISHAW	2
KEENEN	2
ROTHENTHURN PASS, } where I performed quarantine, }	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/> 22 $\frac{1}{2}$;

which, reckoning 12 English miles to a German post, is 270 miles,

The above are not the only towns through which I passed; but are specified as being the places appointed for fresh

horses, which are always kept ready on purpose to convey the German mails, and are paid for that service by M. DE MERKELIUS, who has great part of the management of forwarding the German post from CONSTANTINOPLE to the frontiers, and through whose hands all the East India Company's dispatches pass, on their way to VIENNA.

I arrived at the ROTHEN THURN PASS at five o'clock in the afternoon of the 5th September, when my quarantine commenced. I had brought letters from M. DE MERKELIUS to the Director of the LAZARETTO, however, which proved of much service; for I was in consequence particularly attended to, had a servant appointed to wait on me, and was supplied with plenty of the best provisions, wine, and fruits.

When at CONSTANTINOPLE, I wished much to come through SERVIA and BELGRADE, and to perform quarantine at SEMLIN, but was induced to decline coming

coming that route on being informed, that I should be detained thirty days; whereas by this route I should only be delayed ten days by the quarantine. This route also being appointed by the Germans for conducting the post, I experienced no other detention whatever; in the other, I should have been liable to many delays.

My Janizary and myself had travelled so fast as actually to keep in company with the post till after we crossed the DANUBE, when I found myself so much fatigued that I preferred remaining all night to continuing with the post any longer. I have often had the vanity to think that I was as able to endure fatigue and hardships as most men, always enjoying a good strong constitution, and from choice having been accustomed to live temperately; but I have had experience enough to know, that I must submit to the Turks, whose patience and perseverance in performing the longest journies exceed all belief.

From the night of the 25th August to the evening of the 31st, I had travelled six hundred and seventy-two English miles, as will appear by the following distances, given me by M. DE. MERKELIUS, the Director of the Post, and on whose knowledge and veracity I may have perfect dependence.

German Post.

From CONSTANTINOPLE to ROCHUKE on the DANUBE, through ROMALIA and BULGARIA	50
From ERGUOFF on the DANUBE to BUKAREST	6
	<hr/> 56;

which, reckoning 12 English miles to a German post, is 672 miles.

The latter has been accurately ascertained by the German engineers, who had the conducting of artillery to ERGUOFF in the late war.

On the 14th September my quarantine expired, the day on which I arrived being reckoned

reckoned as one, because I was there before sun-set. As there was no carriage ready, the Director recommended me to wait till the following morning, the post being expected at six o'clock. After breakfasting with the Director, who made many apologies for not attending me better, being prevented from having any communication, I made his two children a present, and took my leave, perfectly satisfied with his conduct.

I set out in the post-cart, built on purpose, and with better accommodations and more convenient than the WALLACHIAN; though but by daylight.

Our road for the first six miles along the banks of the river, is between very high hills and thick woods on the side. There are many streams here, but just broad enough for a carriage, and which have been cut out of the solid rocks.

At BOETZHAR all my passports, and certificates of having performed the quarantine, were examined.

After getting through those passes we entered a fine open country, in which numerous villages and some considerable towns were to be seen, and the greater part of the whole was cultivated.

At eleven o'clock we arrived at HERRMANSTADT, the capital of TRANSYLVANIA.

Here I delivered the letter which I had brought from the Imperial Minister at CONSTANTINOPLE to the General Commandant of the province, who behaved very politely, and made me welcome at his house. He entertained a very high opinion of the English, (by whose troops he had once been taken prisoner when in FLANDERS) but knew very little of the language; for he often repeated all that he knew of it, which were only two words, the common expression in swearing,

ing, which he said he learned while a prisoner.

The passports I had received from the Imperial Minister at CONSTANTINOPLE (for what purpose I cannot say) mentioned that I was a bachelor, which the General observing, he wished me much to marry a German, saying that they had plenty of very handsome women, and that if I would fix upon any one, he would pledge himself that I should not meet with a refusal in the whole province.

HERRMANSTADT is a tolerably well built city. The promenade is very pleasant, and they have also a very handsome theatre. Their music is excellent, having the advantage of some of the first German performers. The people are very polite, and observe much formality; for no person above the rank of a servant can walk in the streets without a sword by his side. They are also very particular in their dresses; and a native of the province wears a dress similar to what was worn in

ENGLAND

ENGLAND upwards of a hundred years ago, viz, a long coat almost reaching to the ground, trimmed all round with fur; a pair of boots like those of our heavy cavalry, with a cocked hat something like a Dutch skipper's. People from every province are known here by their respective dresses; and even every tradesman is distinguished by his apparel.

Whoever visits this city, if he can spare two hours, should not neglect seeing Baron BRUKENTHAL's extensive collection of the most valuable paintings, many of which are by the first masters, GUIDO, RUBENS, REMBRANT, &c. His antique coins, medals, and other curiosities, also are well worth seeing. His library is very extensive, and considered of great value. He has likewise a beautiful garden about half a mile out of the city, laid out after the English taste.

The Baron is almost 80 years of age; he was many years Civil Governor of this province, and speaks English tolerably well.

TRAN-

TRANSYLVANIA is, generally speaking, a fine country, but capable of much improvement. It produces great quantities of most kinds of grain, and flax of a very good quality, which is manufactured into linen.

The nobility are for the most part very proud, and keep their peasantry in a state of slavery; for out of six days in the week the peasant is obliged to labour four for his master, having only the remaining two days for himself.

This province pays to the Emperor in taxes of all kinds 1,500,000 florins annually, which is chiefly imposed upon the land, for what the citizens pay is very trifling indeed.

I bought at HERRMANSTADT a carriage of that kind called a calash, being much more commodious than the common post-carts, as in case of rain the passengers can throw the calash over them for shelter.

They run upon four wheels, and are very easy in their motion.

Beside the letters to the General Commandant, I had others to HADJEE * * * * *, a banker, who introduced me to two Greek merchants that were going to VIENNA, and recommended me to take them in my carriage. As they were acquainted with the language, I agreed to it, and on the 18th September we set out from HERRMANSTADT.

We travelled post, and without any delay, by day and night, till we arrived at TEMESWAR, the capital of BANATE, where we were detained a few hours to have our passports examined. This being a strong fortification, the officers were very particular in examining all strangers, and I was obliged to go before the General Commandant, with whom I conversed in Latin. When informed that I was an Englishman he shewed me much attention.

The BANATE is a very fine province, the greater part of it being level and well cultivated, except on that side adjoining to TRANSYLVANIA, which is mountainous and woody.

Provisions of all kinds are good and cheap; and their wines are excellent, particularly at a large town called LUGOS.

The two Greek merchants, my companions, continued to pay on the road, and I observed them frequently endeavouring to cheat the post masters and postilions. When we stopped at an inn too, they behaved very shabbily. I considered myself disgraced by such conduct; but when at last they even attempted to impose upon me, I thought it high time to break off all connection with them, which I did immediately on our arrival at PEST.

This conduct in the Greek merchants confirmed the opinion I had always entertained of those people, who may be said to be in a degraded state, and
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whose flag is not respected by other nations. It might be thought illiberal to enumerate the various nations and people whose conduct should be watched with a jealous eye; in ASIA, however, I may mention the Armenian; in EUROPE, the Greeks and Jews. I have witnessed the low chicanery of the two former, and I believe we have here almost daily proofs of the latter. On the contrary, I have observed, that whenever the flag of any nation is respected, the people of that nation conduct themselves in a manner that will at all times command respect. These considerations convince me, how much every individual ought to consider himself interested in supporting the dignity of his national character.

PEST is at present the capital of the kingdom of HUNGARY. It is a large and populous city, and has been much improved within the last six years, great part of the city having been entirely rebuilt. It is seated on the left banks of the DANUBE.

On the opposite side of the river is the city of OFFEN, nearly as large as PEST, and remarkable for its excellent wines, which are held in much esteem all over the Empire.

OFFEN is situated on the side of a hill facing the South, which is covered with vineyards for about six miles below the city. The wine is red and something like port, but has a stronger body and is very rough. We have a prospect of some of this wine reaching ENGLAND, as they are now cutting a canal from VIENNA to TRIESTE.

On the river DANUBE below PEST, are many floating corn-mills, which are admirably adapted for the purpose. The vessels on which the mills are built are always kept afloat, and at anchor, in the middle of the stream; the wheel is turned by the current; and I am of opinion, that mills built on a similar construction might be made serviceable on the river THAMES,

without obstructing the navigation; for we have too many instances of flour and bread advancing in price, on account of the mills in the neighbourhood not being able to raise a sufficient supply, particularly in dry seasons.

On the 25th September, at four in the afternoon, I set out from PEST, and arrived at VIENNA at 12 o'clock at night. The road was in general tolerably good, and I travelled about as quick as does the mail coach in ENGLAND.

At VIENNA I remained nearly three weeks, being much fatigued with the journey; and during my stay I received many civilities from Sir MORTON EDEN (now Lord HENLEY) the British Minister.

On the 12th October I left VIENNA, coming through BOHEMIA, and remaining two days at PRAGUE to take a view of the city and its environs.

Leaving

Leaving PRAGUE I came on to DRESDEN, the capital of SAXONY, where I remained two days, and did not consider my time mis-spent. There is a degree of elegance in this city and the neighbourhood, superior to any thing that I have elsewhere seen. The gallery is supposed to contain the largest and best collection of paintings in EUROPE, and it had lately received considerable additions; for, on the French entering ITALY, many of the best pieces were conveyed to DRESDEN, as a place of safety.

After leaving DRESDEN, I travelled through LEIPSICK, HALLE, HALBERSTADT, BRUNSWICK-LUNENBURG, and to HAMBURGH, which I reached on the evening of the 28th October.

THE END.

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